Comelec: Deduct 30,000 votes from Recto

STORY ON PAGE A2

Star Wars good for US, bad for allies

ANO BA YAN? BAKA PATI KAMI MADAMAY!

SCIENTISTS say the planned US anti-missile system has a big problem—it may protect major American cities from an attack but the intercepted missile could

STAR/ A6

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2001 ★★ 82 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 264 ₱15

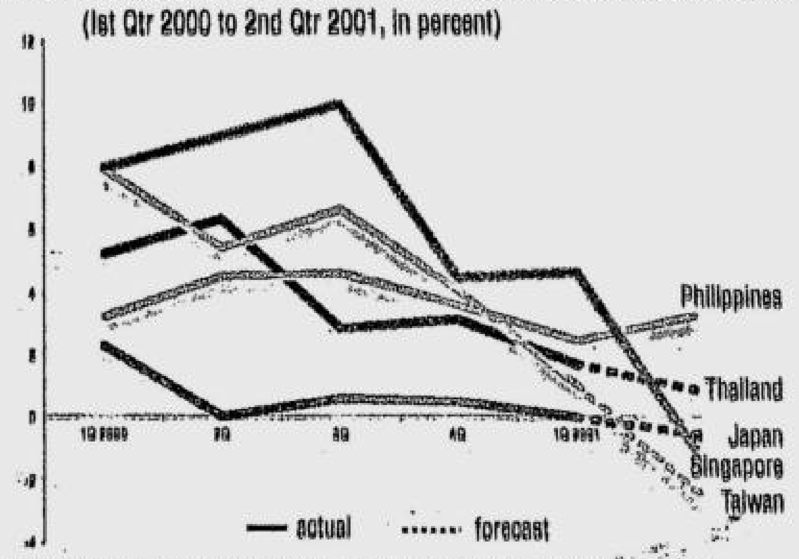
WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Naia expressway, IT park OKd** BUSINESS / B1
- **Siquijor offers to host Abu trial** ACROSS / A15
- **E. Timor holds first elections** WORLD / A12
- **AIDS vaccine possible** WORLD / A12

Economy grew by 3.3 percent in 2nd quarter

GDP growth rates of selected Asian economies

(1st Qtr 2000 to 2nd Qtr 2001, in percent)



SOURCE: GOVERNMENT WEBSITES OF SELECTED ASIAN ECONOMIES AND REUTERS.

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

THE DOOMSAYERS were dead wrong, and they still couldn't believe it. The Philippine economy once again stood out amid a regional slowdown, showing more strength than anyone had expected.

Despite the "Edsa Tres" riots, violent May elections and Abu Sayyaf kidnappings from April to June, the country's gross domestic product grew by 3.3 percent in the second quarter compared with the same period last year.

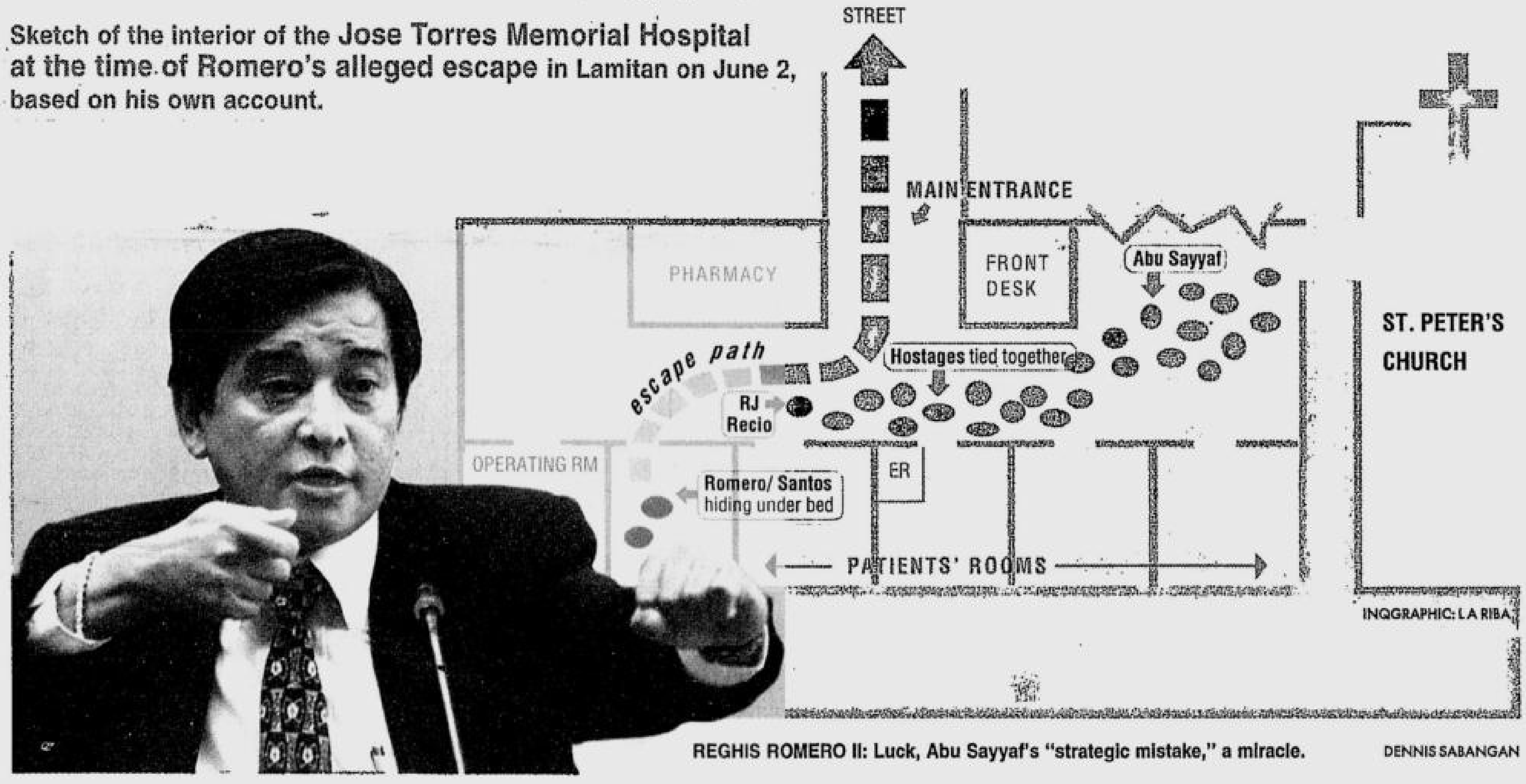
GDP, a gauge of the country's economic well-being, is the total amount of goods and services produced over a period, excluding remittances of overseas Filipino workers and other dollar inflows

ECONOMY/ A7

A MILLION THANKS. At the National Press Club on Wednesday, President Macapagal, seated with Mr. Mike Arroyo, seeks the help of the media to become a good president. In turn, she donates P1 million for the debt-strapped NPC to put its house in order for its 50th anniversary next year. EDWIN BACASMAS

'Don't destroy PNP'

Sketch of the interior of the Jose Torres Memorial Hospital at the time of Romero's alleged escape in Lamitan on June 2, based on his own account.



INQGRAPHIC: LA RIBA

REGHIS ROMERO II: Luck, Abu Sayyaf's "strategic mistake," a miracle. DENNIS SABANGAN

Mendoza fumes over Mary Ong's allegations

BY CARLITO PABLO, MARTIN MARFIL AND JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN

ALTHOUGH many of her allegations were not new, Philippine National Police chief Leandro Mendoza and other officers yesterday cried foul over the claim of former narcotics agent Mary Ong, alias Rosebud, that the national headquarters of the PNP was the center of the country's illegal drug trade.

"For Ms Ong to accuse the PNP of being behind the trafficking of illegal drugs . . . is a sweeping indictment of the entire 115,000-strong national police," the police general said in a statement.

"Nonetheless," Mendoza added, "I have instructed the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management to investigate the allegations" raised during a Senate hearing on Wednesday.

He also seemed to doubt whether Ong would be able to substantiate her charges that certain PNP officers were behind drug trafficking.

"If at all, Ms Mary Ong has the evidence to substantiate her charges against some PNP personnel, by all means she must name and pinpoint specific responsibility rather than destroy the reputation of the entire organization through indiscriminate and generalized accusations," he said.

A number of journalists covering Camp Crame expressed surprise at Mendoza's strong reaction to Ong's testimony, which zeroed in on

DON'T/ A18

'I did not pay a single centavo'

BY VOLT CONTRERAS AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

AFTER six hours of questioning by the House defense committee, construction magnate Reghis Romero II emerged disappointed with the way the congressmen continued to entertain doubts about his escape story.

Romero came armed with a video tape to the committee hearing, to deny allegations that the Abu Sayyaf had merely allowed him to escape because ransom had been paid. He left the hearing frustrated, vowing never to heed the summons of the committee again.

Romero maintained that he and two other hostages took advantage of the "tactical retreat" that the Abu Sayyaf Group was forced to make on June 2, when the military caught up with it in a hospital in Lamitan, Basilan, to make a run for freedom. "The strategic mistake of the Abu Sayyaf in attacking Lamitan provided us the luck and opportunity to escape," he said.

"It's so frustrating, of course," Romero told reporters. "What we're fighting here is the Abu Sayyaf, not the hostages. But it seems we (the victims) are the ones being investigated," he said.

Two Senate committees also held a parallel hearing on allegations by Lamitan, Basilan parish priest Fr. Cirilo Nacorda that members of the military were in collusion with the Abu Sayyaf. There, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes sought to turn the tables

I DID NOT/ A18

Sabaya: We paid official to escape

BY ARLYN DE LA CRUZ
PDI Contributor

"WE paid so that we could escape."

This is what Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya told this reporter in a phone call the other day.

"It's true we just walked out of the place, but shots were fired too," Sabaya said.

Sabaya, who initiated the call, answered questions about the allegations of Lamitan, Basilan parish priest Cirilo Nacorda that some military officials had connived with the Abu Sayyaf.

"Nacorda's version is just 80-percent true," Sabaya said.

He said that, during a lull in the fighting on the afternoon of June 2,

SABAYA/ A21

Lacson: Is Corpus status legal?

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

SEN. Panfilo Lacson yesterday moved in on Col. Victor Corpus and questioned the latter's commissioning into the Armed Forces of the Philippines following his incarceration for rebellion charges.

Lacson's tack appeared to be an effort to discredit the military intelligence chief and render useless his claim that the senator was engaged in high crimes, including drug trafficking, money laundering and kidnapping for ransom.

The scene was the resumption of the Senate Question Hour, to which Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes was invited, and where Lacson and his colleague in the opposition, Sen. Gregorio Honasan, tried but failed to discredit the authority of the Intelligence Service

LACSON/ A18

Suspect in priest's murder surrenders

BY EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ, CHARLIE C. SEÑASE AND GRACE CANTAL-ALBASIN
PDI Mindanao Bureau

PARANG, Maguindanao—Irish priest Rufus Halley's angry reaction to an attempt to kidnap him provoked his fatal shooting, police investigators quoted one of his attackers as saying.

Police investigators said Abdulsamad Ibrahim, one of Halley's seven attackers who surrendered to authorities in Balabagan town, identified Akto Sumagayan Daing, 35, as the one who shot and killed Halley on Tuesday.

Ibrahim was quoted as saying that he was to drive the truck to be used as getaway vehicle in the kidnapping.

He said Daing, who was carrying an Armalite rifle, shot Halley after the Columban missionary allegedly kicked Datu Ali, one of their companions.

"He refused to go with us. Ali grabbed him, but he kicked Ali," investigators quoted Ibrahim as saying.

"Apparently, Halley was arguing with the kidnappers after he was told at gunpoint that he was going to be kidnapped," said Senior Supt.

SUSPECT/ A21

JOHN CAMPOS: Never loved her; I only used her. FILM GRAB/GMA-7

John, the spy who dumped me; Rosebud crushed

BY CARLITO PABLO

"HE has ceased to be a man . . . He's such a pig, such a pig."

Racked by sobs, Mary "Rosebud" Ong was the picture yesterday of a woman devastated by a man she had loved as a husband and lived in with for five years.

In front of TV cameras, Ong lost every shred of the composure she had displayed at a Senate public hearing the day before, and she openly grieved over the rebuff of her former lover, Supt. John Campos, who flatly disowned her on national television Wednesday evening.

In an interview that night with Campos on GMA-7's "Frontpage," anchor Mel Tiangco asked the Narcotics Group officer about the ex-

JOHN/ A18

Second FRONT PAGE

LAMANG PA RIN!

Recto loses 30,000 votes

RECTO VS-+ HONASAN

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

COMMISSION on Elections Chair Alfredo Benipayo has ordered 30,000 votes deducted from the tally of Sen. Ralph Recto in Zamboanga del Norte, following the disclosure by the Puwersa ng Masa that the padded votes had not been removed as ordered earlier by the National Board of Canvassers.

Benipayo issued his instruction verbally to Ester Villaflor-Roxas, head of the encoding group in the senatorial canvass, after the latter admitted her committee had failed to implement the NBC order contained in Resolution 01-003 dated May 31.

The NBC had ordered 3,000 votes deducted from Recto's tally in each of 10 towns in Zamboanga del Norte.

Rufus Rodriguez, counsel for Sen. Loi Ejercito, discovered the votes were still in Recto's national total when he was proclaimed along with 12 other senators on June 5.

Roxas said her group will release an updated version of the final Senate Canvass Report No. 24 containing the correct number of votes for Recto, as well as the correct figures for the total number of registered voters and actual number of voters in the May 14 elections.

"Even after the votes are deducted, Recto will still be in 12th place while Honasan will be in 13th," Roxas said.

The senator in 12th place will serve a full six-year term, while the 13th placer will serve out Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr.'s remaining three-year term.

While Rodriguez welcomed the Comelec's order deducting the 30,000 votes, he cautioned the poll body against correcting the final Senate tally without authorization from the commissioners sitting en banc through an appropriate resolution.

"The NBC has to reconvene (in order) to authorize changes to the Senate canvass," Rodriguez said.

In a related development, the Supreme Court has given the Comelec and Recto 10 days to comment on a petition filed by Honasan questioning the legality of the poll body's resolution declaring him the 13th placer in the senatorial elections.

Honasan had questioned the constitutionality of the Comelec resolution, saying it was signed by only three out of five commissioners.

For a Comelec resolution to be constitutional, it should have been passed by a majority of the seven commissioners sitting en banc.

Honasan said this meant the resolution should have been signed by at least four commissioners.

Honasan's office said that only the Comelec had been listed as the respondent in his petition. Recto might have been included since he was the 12th placer, it surmised.

BENIPAYO

TANCANGCO

Tancangco dares chief to one-on-one

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

ELECTION commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco yesterday challenged Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo to a one-on-one public discussion of controversial issues now ripping the poll body apart, from the still unsettled questions, on the Senate canvassing, to the padding of voters list and the modernization program that has failed to take off.

"It will not be a debate but a presentation of all our positions before the public," Tancangco said in the Holiday Inn forum yesterday. "Commissioner Resurreccion Borra and the senior staff can join him."

Several media groups have in the past tried to arranged a debate-type discussion with all commissioners, particularly Tancangco and Benipayo, present but such attempts have proven futile.

"The public should be made aware of these issues and I have said a long time ago that I welcome a public discussion," Tancangco said. "He has to publicly defend his decisions the way I do."

Tancangco lamented that Benipayo's brand of leadership curtailed free discussion in the en banc. She recalled that Benipayo once whistled at the commissioners to silence them during a heated discussion on the proclamation of the party-list winners.

"He treats us like kids, like subordinates when he is the first among equals in the en banc," she said. "The chairman has arrogated all the powers to himself with the assistance of Commissioner Borra and the senior staff."

She said Benipayo's brand of leadership "does not encourage participation from the members of the en banc."

"He is operating as a one-man commission," she said.

Tancangco and Benipayo are once again at loggerheads following the former's allegations that there was a conspiracy by certain officials in the Comelec to conceal election fraud by the padding of the voters list by more than 500,000.

While Benipayo had admitted the discrepancies, he attributed the increase in the number of registered voters on clerical errors in encoding in figures which he said had already been corrected by the senior staff.

Benipayo brushed aside Tancangco's tirades, saying the lone woman commissioner was destroying the Comelec as an institution rather than protect its integrity" by coming out to the media with allegations of fraud without first verifying with the senior staff.

"There are things she does not understand that involves law," Benipayo said on Wednesday, in an apparent reference to Tancangco being the only non-lawyer among the commissioners.

Benipayo also said the commissioners who were questioning en banc resolutions should first attend meetings. "The problem with them is they do not appear during deliberations and they complain later that they were not consulted," he said. "The commission cannot be held hostage."

But Tancangco said she was not out to destroy the Comelec when she bared the 500,000 discrepancy in the number of registered voters in the Senate canvass report and in the records of the poll body.

"Who is destroying the Comelec, the one who is pushing for reforms so that the electoral process will be transparent and free of fraud, or the ones who are concealing fraud and protecting the cheaters?" she said.

Joe de V pressing Cha-cha

BY TJ BURGONIO

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia has vowed to press ahead with his proposal to amend the Constitution next year, but with modifications.

De Venecia appeared to have softened his stand when he changed the time frame for amending the Charter to late 2002 instead of earlier in the year as he had stated.

He also appeared to agree with President Macapagal-Arroyo that turning the economy around and bringing peace to the country took precedence over amending the 1987 Constitution.

"It could take 10 to 18 months to turn the economy around and complete the peace agreements with the Moros and the leftists, before the atmosphere (would be right) for constitutional amendments," he said in an interview prior to his departure for Thailand yesterday.

De Venecia said he believes the President is not entirely opposed to amending the Constitution, however.

What she is probably opposed to, he said, is introducing amendments this year.

In that case, he said, he shared the President's position that any move to change the Charter should be done later.

"It's very important... it shouldn't be now... we don't want to destroy the nation... maybe the latter part of next year," De Venecia said.

He admitted he and the President haven't discussed the issue.

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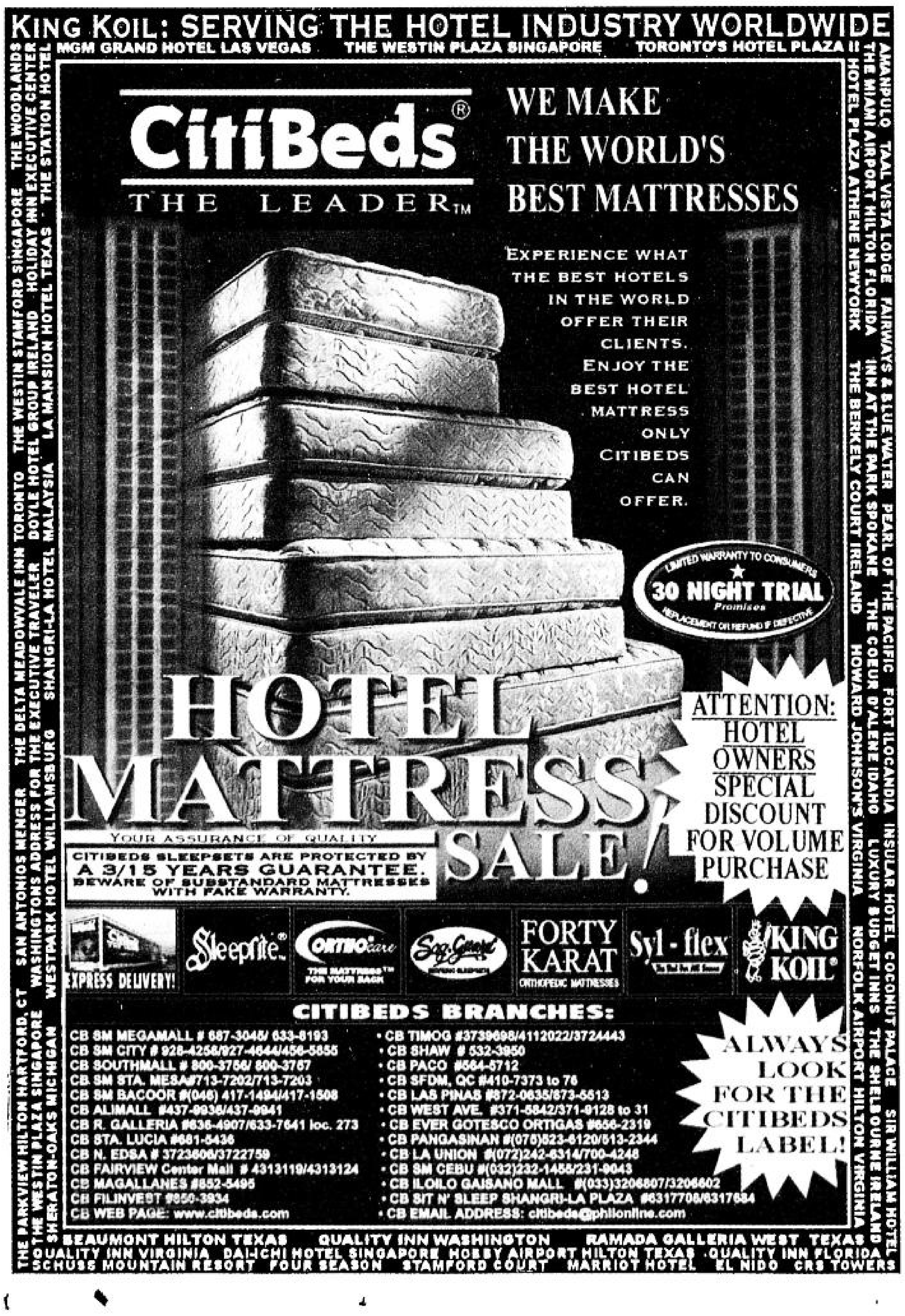
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MEDICAL GROUNDS

Sandigan to tackle Jinggoy's bail bid

By Donna S. Cueto

THE SANDIGANBAYAN decided yesterday to hear the motion for bail based on "medical grounds" filed by former San Juan mayor Jinggoy Estrada, even as a petition involving the question of bail in the case against him pends before the Supreme Court.

Disregarding prosecution objections, the Sandiganbayan Third Division ruled that Estrada's lawyers did not violate the rule on forum shopping when they filed the motion for bail or temporary liberty because of the supposed heart condition of Estrada.

The defense was prepared to present Estrada's cardiologist, Dr. Roberto Anastacio, yesterday but questions on the anti-graft court's authority to hear the new motion for bail postponed his testimony again.

Anastacio's testimony was reset for Tuesday next week.

The prosecution claimed the Sandiganbayan could not hear the motion for bail because the accused was not entitled to bail, having been charged with plunder, a capital offense.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto argued that filing a motion for bail, although on other grounds like a medical reason, before the Sandiganbayan when there was a pending petition before the Supreme Court constituted forum shopping.

Defense lawyer Cleofe Versola said there was an immediate need for the anti-graft court to hear their motion for bail because of Estrada's heart condition. Jinggoy and his father, former President Joseph Estrada, are currently detained at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

The prosecution said it will file a motion for reconsideration of the ruling, adding it will seek a TRO from the Supreme Court if the Sandiganbayan justices do not change their minds.

He said the young Estrada had a heart injury and the two incidents of sudden increase in CPK, a heart enzyme that suggests heart injury, during his detention at the VMMC could be signs of a major heart attack.

SC tells Ping to justify TRO on kidnap raps

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

THE SUPREME Court has given Sen. Panfilo Lacson and his former subordinate, ex-Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, 10 days to justify the issuance of a temporary restraining order by a Manila judge that barred any further investigation into their alleged involvement in several kidnap and murder cases in 1999.

The SC order was prompted by a petition filed by the Department of Justice that also charged Manila Judge Hermogenes Liwag with grave abuse of discretion for having issued the TRO.

The DOJ accused Liwag, a respondent in the SC order, of "disregarding (its) crystal-clear authority" and those of government prosecutors to conduct the preliminary investigation, when he issued the TRO.

Liwag handed down the order after upholding Lacson's argument that the allegations against him involving kidnap-for-ransom and murder were the same as those contained in a complaint filed earlier by civilian agent Mary Ong with the Office of the Ombudsman on Jan. 8.

Ong, or Rosebud, was a Chinese interpreter for the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force that Lacson headed at the same time he was director general of the Philippine National Police.

By conducting a separate probe, Lacson said the DOJ was violating the Ombudsman's "prior, primary and exclusive jurisdiction to investigate criminal cases cognizable by the Sandiganbayan."

Lacson had asked the DOJ not to push through with the preliminary investigation of the cases. Before the department could act on his request, Lacson and Aquino had filed a petition for prohibition before the Manila court.

Ong's Jan. 8 complaint before the Ombudsman contained derogatory information against Lacson, Aquino and other ranking PNP officers.

She had accused Lacson in the kidnap-murder of Chong Hiu Ming on Dec. 30, 1998; Wong Kam Chong on March 26, 1999, and Chan Ka Tseung on July 25, 1999; the abduction of Zeng Jia Xuan and an unnamed brother; and the kidnap for ransom of Hong Zhen Quiao and James Ong on March 26, 1999.

Aquino, on the other hand, had been charged with violating the Anti-Wiretapping Act for allegedly listening in on conversations on two phone lines of Chan Ka Tseung.

He was also named a principal accused in the kidnap, murder and theft case involving Chan.

TIP ALUMNI HOMECOMING

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The 5th Grand Alumni Homecoming is scheduled on February 9, 2002 at the Century Park Hotel Grand Ballroom. All Alumni are cordially invited to this Grand Occassion.

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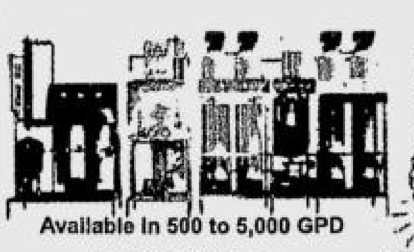

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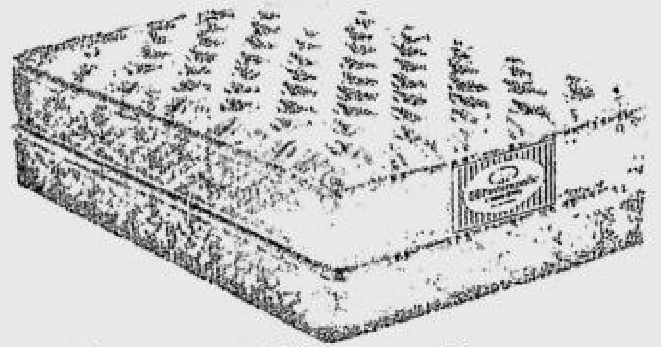

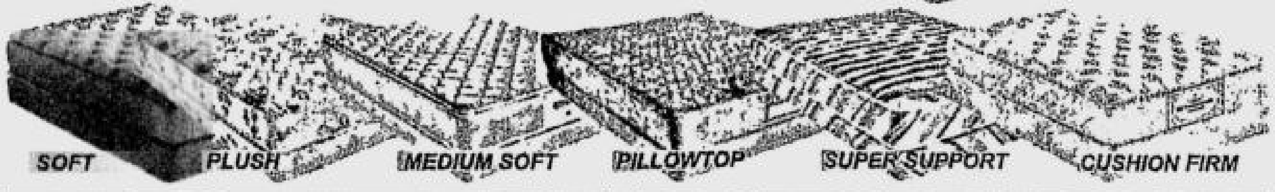

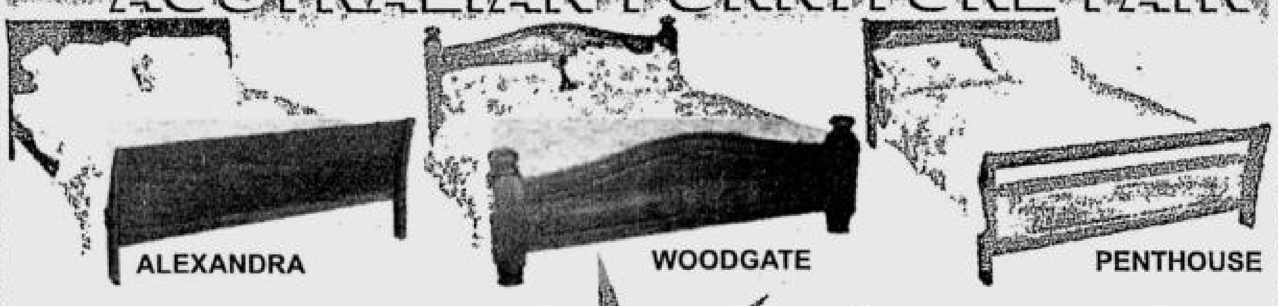

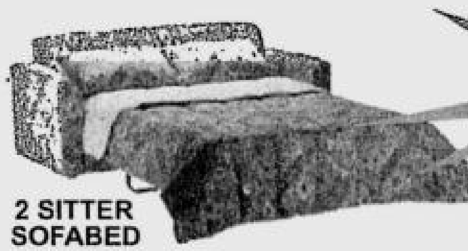

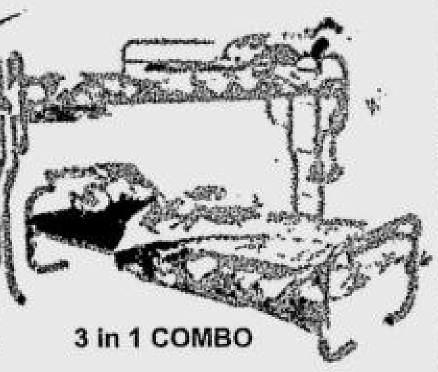

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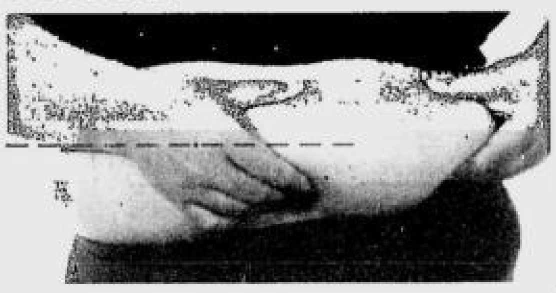

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3-day holiday weekends eyed to spur local tourism

A PROPOSAL to celebrate non-working holidays on a Friday will create three-day weekends and promote domestic tourism in the country.

This was one of the measures proposed yesterday in the Tourism-Related Industry Congress (Tricon) at the Westin Philippine Plaza to perk up the tourism industry and reverse the country's negative travel image abroad.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon said President Macapagal-Arroyo has agreed in principle to move the declaration of non-working holidays to Fridays to enable citizens to go on three-day weekends and travel to various sites all over the country. This, without disturbing the national observance of these holidays.

These were among the proposals presented at the Tricon by the Department of Tourism, its attached agencies, travel trade private sector, local government units and other government entities.

Tricon, attended by a record 710 participants, is a national event held to promote multisectoral cooperation for tourism growth.

Apart from the three-day holiday weekends, other proposals included lobbying for increased funding for tourism promotions, the rationalization of travel taxes, tapping overseas Filipinos as tourism volunteers, and the monitoring of environment protection in tourism sites.

Three memoranda of agreements were signed. One was signed by Gordon with Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona and Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo for the facilitation of Philippine travel by nationals of the People's Republic of China.

Another was signed by the DOT with the Department of Transportation and Communication and the Metro Manila Development Authority for the improvement of taxi services. A MOA for the safety and protection of tourists was signed by DOT with Interior Secretary Joey Lina.

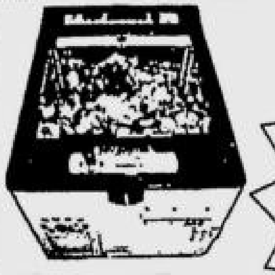
Gordon said that although the industry is experiencing slumps in reaction to negative publicity about the country, Philippine tourism never had it so good with a President who believes in the potentials of tourism in revving up the Philippine economy.

Christopher "Perry" Alegre, president of the Philippine Tour Operators Association, said the tourism industry is marked today by a "oneness of purpose" and "dynamism to overcome almost insurmountable challenges."

"The time to act is now," he said, adding that the industry "stands as one to cooperate and compromise."

Gordon also said that the President was the first to sign up as volunteer in the DOT's newly designed "Volunteer 12 program" that entices overseas Filipino workers to invite at least one tourist a month, a desirable 12 per year or as many tourists to the country.

"The country may not have $70 million to promote tourism, but it surely has 7 million OFWs overseas who are well-placed in major travel markets worldwide who can effectively be promoters of the country," Gordon said.



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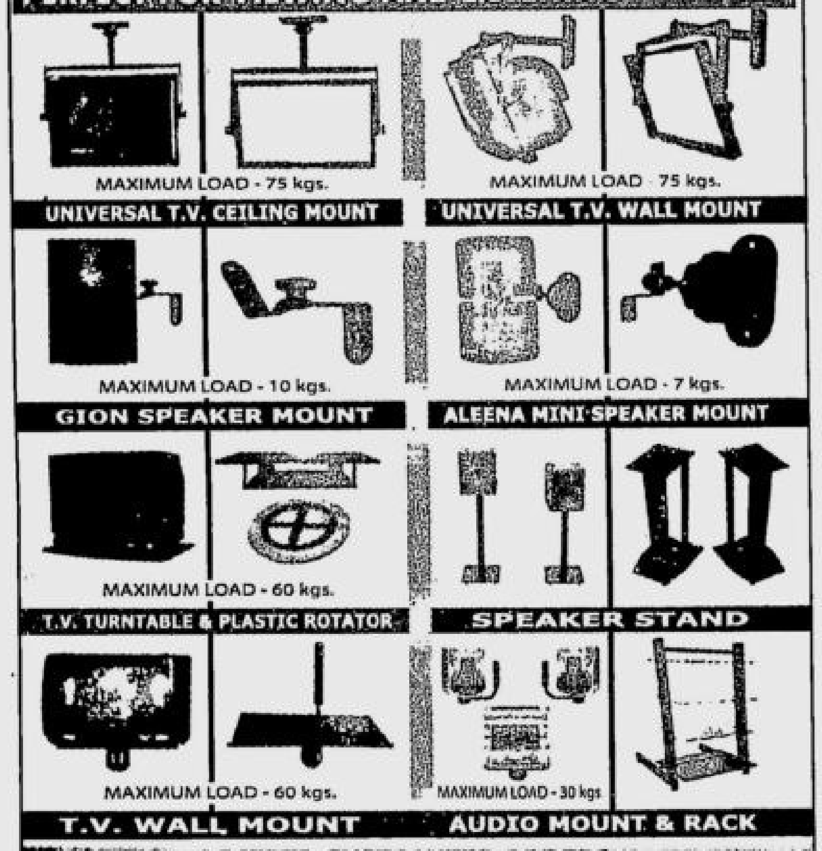

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, August 31, 2001
21st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Thes 4:1-8
Gospel: Mt 25:1-13

Jesus said to his disciples, "This story throws light on what will happen in the kingdom of heaven. Ten bridesmaids went out with their lamps to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were careless while the others were sensible.

The careless bridesmaids took their lamps as they were and did not bring extra oil. But those who were sensible, brought with their lamps flasks of oil. As the bridegroom delayed, they all grew drowsy and fell asleep.

But at midnight, a cry rang out: 'The bridegroom is here, come out and meet him!' All the maidens woke up at once and trimmed their lamps. Then the careless ones said to the sensible ones: 'Give us some oil, for our lamps are going out.' The sensible ones answered: 'There may not be enough for both you and us. You had better go to those who sell and buy for yourselves.'

They were out buying oil when the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him to the wedding feast, and the doors were shut.

Later the rest of the bridesmaids arrived and called out: 'Lord, Lord, open to us.' But he answered: 'Truly, I do not know you.'

So, stay awake, for you do not know the day nor the hour."

Commentary

Only with the coming of the bridegroom can we compare the coming of the Lord. It truly is a joyful event. Jesus uses here an imagery that was well known in Israel. Life is then to be organized in such a way that it becomes a protracted preparation for this coming. Just as a bridesmaid feels disappointed if she is unable to welcome the bridegroom in a proper way, so life falls short when it is not directed to the coming of the Lord. Jesus points here in a charming way—but at the same time in unmistakable terms—at the real dimensions of life, and invites people to organize life according to the proper standards.

Father, we thank you for having invited us to share the joy of eternal life. Grant that we might remain aware of this invitation in the many happenings of every day.

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BOOK OF SIN

Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin autographs the book "A Legacy of Sin" during its launching Wednesday night at his official residence, the Villa San Miguel. Looking on are Vice President Teofisto Guingona and Bing Carreon, the book's author. The book launching is one of highlights of the cardinal's 73rd birthday celebration today.

Globe, Smart relent, but irate texters won't

By Abigail L. Ho

TO EASE avid "texters'" withdrawal symptoms, cellular phone giants Globe Telecom Inc. and Smart Communications Inc. announced yesterday they would reduce by one-third the number of free text messages they would allow subscribers, from the originally planned two-thirds slash.

At a Congressional hearing yesterday, the cell phone firms said the National Telecommunications Commission persuaded them to modify their text messaging reduction plan after the public protested their initial announcements.

This does not mean the two companies will not get their wish, however, because they will get another one-third slash in free text messages in January next year, just four months away.

Globe and Smart had a closed-door meeting with NTC chief Eliseo Rio last week where they agreed to come up with a "win-win situation" for the telecoms firms and their subscribers.

As a result of that meeting, both companies, including their affiliates—Isla Communications Inc. (Islacom) of Globe and Pilipino Telephone Corp.

(Piltel) of Smart—agreed to stagger the reduction in free text messages: a one-third cut next month and another one-third slash in January.

"This compromise represents the best balance between our commitment to provide the best possible service at the lowest possible cost and our responsibility to ensure that we expand and improve the quality of our services," said Rogelio Quevedo, Smart's legal and carrier relations head.

Even with the new schedule, irate consumers said they would push through with their campaign to stop the cellular phone firms from cutting the number of free text messages.

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Boy back in harness

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo announced she would appoint former lawmaker Ernesto Herrera as presidential adviser when the one-year ban on the appointment of losing candidates is over.

She said Herrera would be appointed presidential adviser on safety nets for sectors affected by globalization.

Herrera, former senator and congressman from Cebu, ran but lost in the May 14 senatorial elections under the pro-administration People Power Coalition.

"I have asked former Senator Boy Herrera to help me put together the safety net program not only for agriculture but for the other sectors as well," she said in her speech at the kickoff of the 50th anniversary of the National Press Club Wednesday night at the Manila Hotel.

Safety nets became a byword when the country subscribed to the GATT-WTO (General Agreement on Tariff and Trade-World Trade Organization).

Various sectors were concerned that local products and industries would lose out on strong competition with foreign products unless the law gives them protection.

The President noted that safety nets ensure that agricultural modernization is founded on equity. She said these are necessary to shelter the most vulnerable groups, such as the country's agriculture and labor sectors, from the adjustment shocks attendant to development.

The President said she found presidential advisers and assistants a more superior system than Cabinet clusters, which take up much of the time of Cabinet officials.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Objection to appellate court's jurisdiction—Respondent questions the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeals over the appeal filed by petitioner. It is significant to note that this objection to the appellate court's jurisdiction is raised for the first time before this Court; respondent never having raised this issue before the appellate court. Although the lack of jurisdiction of a court may be raised at any stage of the action, a party may be estopped from raising such questions if he has actively taken part in the very proceedings which he questions, belated objecting to the court's jurisdiction in the event that the judgment or order subsequently rendered is adverse to him. In this case, respondent actively took part in the proceedings before the Court of Appeals by filing its appellee's brief with the same. Its participation, when taken together with its failure to object to the appellate court's jurisdiction during the entire duration of the proceedings before such court, demonstrates a willingness to abide by the resolution of the case by such tribunal and accordingly, respondent is now most decidedly estopped from objecting to the Court of Appeals' assumption of jurisdiction over petitioner's appeal. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Gonzaga-Reyes, Third Division, Alday v. FGU Insurance Corporation, G.R. No. 138822, January 23, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera

Gloria asks media to help her keep her promises

By Juliet L. Javellana

REITERATING a plea made often to other groups, President Macapagal-Arroyo has asked the Philippine press to help her become a good President.

"You can do it (as) you carry on with your vigilance and commitment to press freedom—which helps keep us in government from stumbling," the President said, at the advance golden anniversary celebration of the National Press Club held at the Manila Hotel on Wednesday.

The President said she needs the help of media to deliver what she promised the people in her Sona last month—jobs, education, housing and food.

Ms Macapagal aired her appeal after she donated P1million to help the NPC put its house in order.

The President issued Proclamation 85 declaring the period between June 15, 2001 and Dec. 31, 2002 as the "golden year of journalism in the service of the nation."

"The proclamation authorizes the National Press Club to undertake a general membership and fund campaign during the period," the President said.

The NPC marks the 50th year of its founding on Oct. 29 next year but its present officers, led by Louie Logarta, wanted to conduct a yearlong campaign to raise funds for the repair of the NPC building in Intramuros and to pay the organization's debts, including electric bills.

Ms Macapagal said the NPC headquarters was the "symbol and seat of Philippine press freedom."

"If Malacañang is the symbol of our nation, the National Press Club building is the symbol of press freedom in our country," she said.

"It is a witness and testament to 50 years of national press leadership in journalism. The historical and cultural values attached to it demand its preservation and for which specific purpose, I am donating P1 million to start the fund drive," she said.

The major donors to the fund drive will be honored with their busts installed on the 12 pillars of the NPC building's winding staircase.

A bust of "Cong Dadong," as the President's late father President Diosdado Macapagal was called, is already on display.

"More than building monuments to preserve the past; the people expect the Philippine press to... spearhead the Filipino future," she said.

She said that beyond reporting what has occurred, the media could contribute "more substantially to the national discourse over where we should go and how to get there."

The media, she said, was the "nation's guardian."

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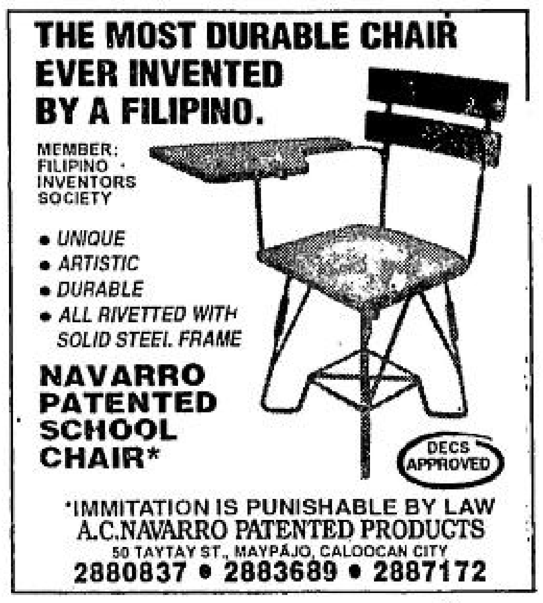

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Importers killing cement industry, says sectoral rep

By Rocky Nazareno

NINE "hole-in-the-wall" cement import firms are killing the cement industry with the unmitigated dumping of foreign cement in the country.

This was disclosed by Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales who said the nine cement import firms are "committing economic sabotage" by "paying only a fistful of cash in taxes while employing only a handful of workers."

Rosales made her statement after a hearing conducted by the House committee on trade and industry on the wanton importation of cement that has severely affected local cement producers.

She noted that while the nine cement import firms have already cornered one-third of the local market, these firms' "contribution to the economy in terms of jobs created, investments poured in and taxes paid are minimal."

But based on documents filed during the hearing, Rosales could only identify five of the nine firms. These are Arizona Realty Corp. TCC Cement Corp. Westpoint Industrial Sales Co., Cohaco Trading, V and C Management and Development Corp.

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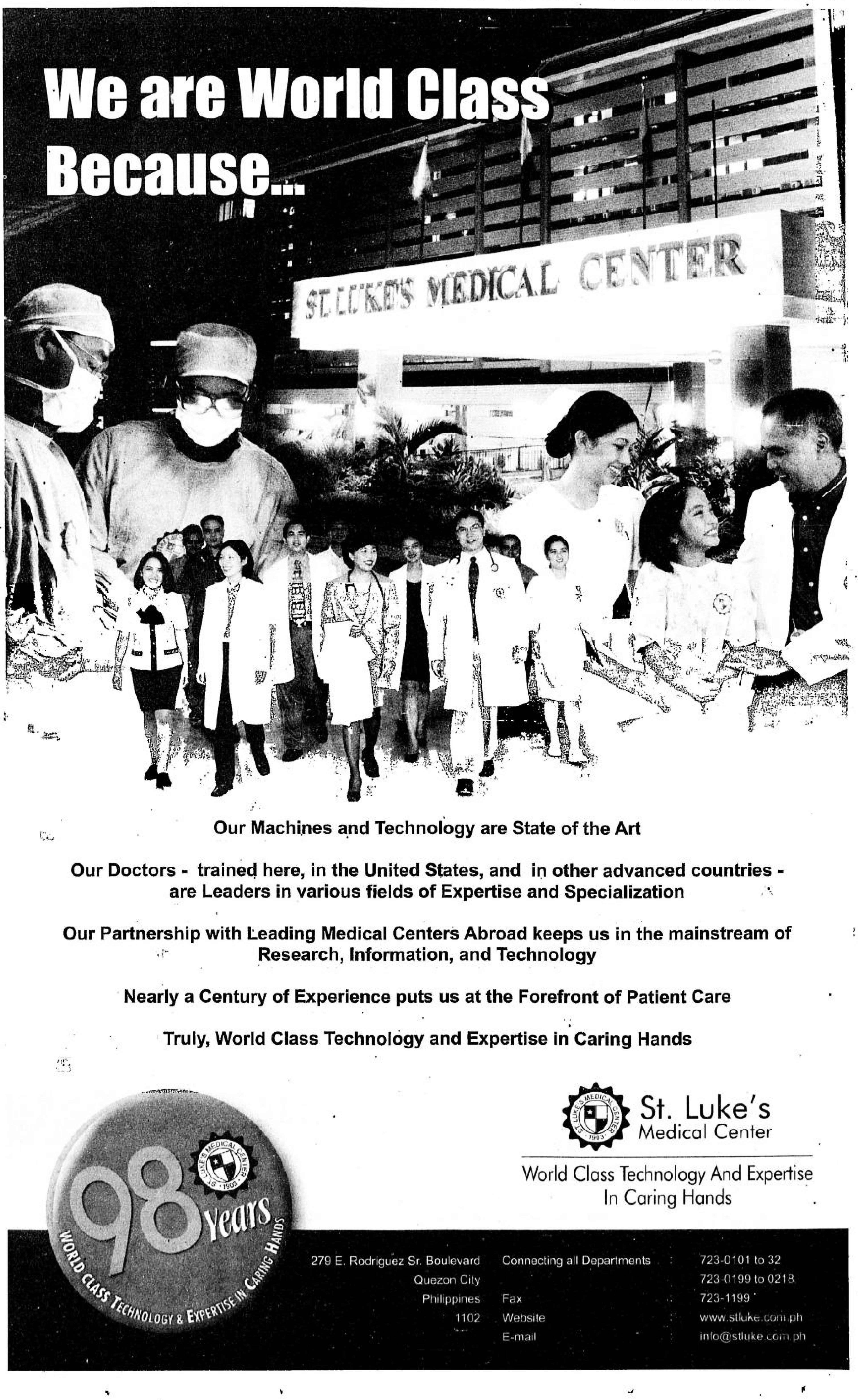

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Star Wars good for US, bad for allies

(From page A1)

fall on an allied country.

It is possible that a warhead fired by North Korea could land in Alaska or Canada if it is intercepted after launch and one launched from Iraq could explode in Europe, according to the British weekly New Scientist in a report to be published tomorrow.

US President George W. Bush's anti-missile scheme includes a system to hit intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) just after they have been launched.

But Ted Postol, a physicist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), said a system to intercept ICBMs minutes after launch could leave the warheads flying in the sky.

"Even if we knew all the details, you couldn't be sure of what would happen in any given engagement," Postol told the science magazine.

The warhead could be destroyed with a bigger interceptor but it would have to be targeted at the warhead.

"There are technologies that overcome this narrowly defined problem," Postol said. "But they look nothing like what the Bush administration is considering."

One of the Pentagon's ideas is to mount a powerful laser aboard a modified Boeing 747 that would burn a hole in the thin skin of a booster.

However, the ray would not be powerful enough to penetrate the thick fairing of a warhead. To destroy the warheads would probably require a larger, more maneuverable interceptor, launched from the sea or land that would specifically target the device with a burst of shrapnel.

Washington says a missile shield is needed to defend against accidental missile launches or attack from what it calls "rogue states" such as Iraq, Iran, Libya and North Korea.

Russia, China and France have all criticized Bush's plans to build the missile shield, saying it might trigger a new arms race.

In Washington, a coalition of environmental and public interest groups sued the US Defense Department in a federal court on Tuesday to require a fresh round of environmental studies. The groups were worried about the potential hazards of missile defense testing on America's West Coast.

The groups contended that the law requires Pentagon to conduct new studies on the effects that the proposed Star Wars test range would have on the Pacific Ocean region between Alaska, Hawaii, California and the Marshall Islands.

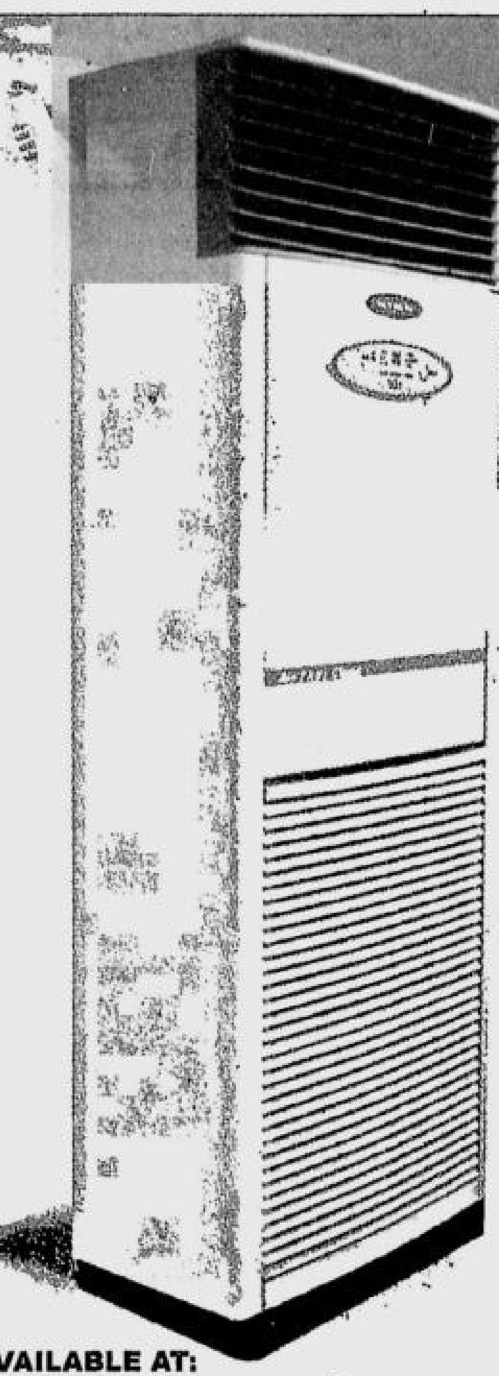
A new supplemental environmental impact study on the missile defense program and a second more specific study on how the program will affect localities are required, the groups say.

They said previous studies in 1994 and 2000 were for old programs that the White House is replacing.

The administration proposal includes plans for an emergency anti-missile system with five missile silos operating from Fort Greely, Alaska by 2004.

"By its own admission, the Bush administration has radically revised the missile defense program," said David Adelman, a senior lawyer for the Natural Resources Defense Council.

"It can't do that without reassessing the potential environmental damage and providing for public comment. Otherwise, it's breaking the law," he said. *AFP, Reuters, AP*



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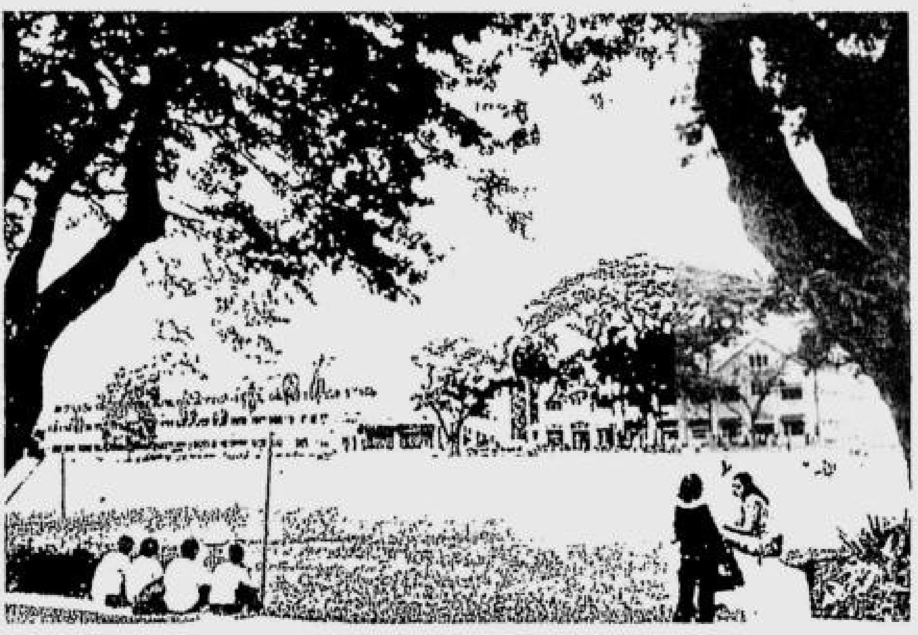

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Economy grew by 3.3 percent in 2nd quarter

(From page A1)

CANLAS

from abroad.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas yesterday said the GDP growth, underpinned by increasing domestic demand, showed "resiliency and bounce" despite shrinking exports due to a global slowdown.

President Macapagal-Arroyo welcomed the news as "sure signs" of an economic turnaround and a return of business confidence.

"The growth rate is impressive not only in the context of a harsh world environment where the economy of our trading partners, the United States and Japan, have slowed down or contracted," Ms Macapagal said in a statement.

"Our economy . . . posted such growth even in the midst of political turmoil," she added.

It was in the second quarter when the Macapagal administration faced destabilization attempts, including a May Day attack on Malacañang by mobs supporting detained former ousted Joseph Estrada, a new kidnapping crisis in Mindanao and rising crime across the country.

A Singapore investment bank that tracks the Philippine economy described the GDP growth as "astounding."

The GDP figure exceeded private forecasts of a 2.25-percent expansion and even the Philippine government's target growth of 2.8-3.0 percent.

With the slowdown in most Asian countries like Singapore and Taiwan, the Philippines was among the few regional economies that posted a GDP growth of over 3 percent in the second quarter.

Data shrugged off

But the growth figure failed to cheer equities and currency markets, with the main stock market index sliding 7.66 points, or 0.6 percent, to end at a 10-month low of 1,262.91 points.

The peso closed slightly weaker at 51.215 against the US dollar compared with the previous day's close of 51.19.

"The numbers are good but I guess people want to feel it (GDP growth) in their pockets first," Eagle Equities president Joey Roxas said.

Canlas said the industrial sector posted a 3.6-percent second quarter growth on a year-on-year basis, with manufacturing registering a slight growth of 2.6 percent in the period against expectations for a contraction.

Construction also bounced back to a 6.6-percent growth from a contraction of 4.0 percent in the first quarter.

"On the manufacturing side, we would have to say the sector performed much better than expected and it explains why (GDP) was better than expected," said Andrew Long, research head at Vickers Ballas Securities Philippines.

Services expanded 3.4 percent in the period, with transportation and communication rising 7.1 percent, mainly on the strong demand in telecommunications.

Services accounted for about 55 percent of total GDP growth. Agriculture, fishery and forestry grew 3.0 percent in the period.

"The number (GDP growth figure) is based on strong private consumption. The dominant driver going ahead for the rest of the year will be the domestic economy, consumption," said Andrew Fung, Asia-Pacific research head of Rabobank.

Personal consumption was the major contributor to the GDP growth, followed by investments in infrastructure projects.

Biggest drag

The biggest drag on the economy, however, was the 4.1-percent tumble in exports in the second quarter.

In the first half of the year, exports were nearly flat with a 0.6-percent rise.

Semiconductor shipments, which account for more than half of Philippine exports, plunged 31.1 percent in the second quarter due to the global technology slowdown.

Gross national product, which includes dollar net inflows from overseas, grew 3.5 percent in the second quarter and 3.4 percent for the first half.

Foreign transfers rose 6.8 percent in the second quarter and 5.6 percent in the first half. The figure includes remittances from millions of Filipinos working overseas, who earn an estimated 8 billion dollars annually.

Remittance income rose 28.4 percent in the first half, but interest payments on foreign loans surged 35.4 percent.

No recession

Asked if the country would escape recession this year, Canlas said: "I think so."

"If it (third quarter GDP growth) is better than expected, we should see continuing growth, rather than a contraction or a recession," he told a news conference.

The government said GDP should grow an annual 2.6 percent and 3.9 percent in the third and fourth quarters.

Canlas said the government was maintaining its 3.3 to 3.8 percent annual GDP growth forecast for 2001.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura agreed that the economy could achieve a 3.3-percent GDP growth for the entire year.

At the same time, however, Canlas warned that the weak US economy and deteriorating Asian economies would weigh on the Philippines going forward.

"We have to be cautiously optimistic because we are seeing a rapid weakening of our neighbors in East Asia . . . Many of our electronics are also being exported to Singapore and Korea and Taiwan," he said.

"So if they continue to weaken, we also have to watch out."

The country eluded a technical recession in the first half, as seasonally adjusted quarter-on-quarter GDP grew 1.5 percent in the second quarter.

The first quarter GDP was revised to 0.1 percent on a quarter-on-quarter basis. The government previously announced a 0.5-percent contraction.

A technical recession is often defined as two successive quarters of seasonally adjusted contraction—an economic condition Singapore and Taiwan are now experiencing.

"The Philippines is the only country in the region, which posted higher growth in the second quarter compared with the first quarter," Canlas said.

Incredulous

Analysts were incredulous after hearing the figures and questioned some of the inputs for the GDP data.

"There seems to be a lot of guesswork in these areas," economist Song Seng Wun of GK Goh Securities in Singapore said, citing the government's mining and construction figures.

"The numbers that we've seen also don't suggest that manufacturing has picked up as rapidly as they have suggested."

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, however, explained that the GDP growth was also made possible by the government fiscal discipline.

Tiglao said the budget deficit was kept at P82.6 billion in the first seven months of the year, well below the government target of P93.6 billion.

"The real key to economic growth . . . is ourselves, if we keep up our optimism despite all our decades-old problems," he quoted Ms Macapagal as saying. ***With reports from Clarissa S. Batino, AP, AFP and Reuters***

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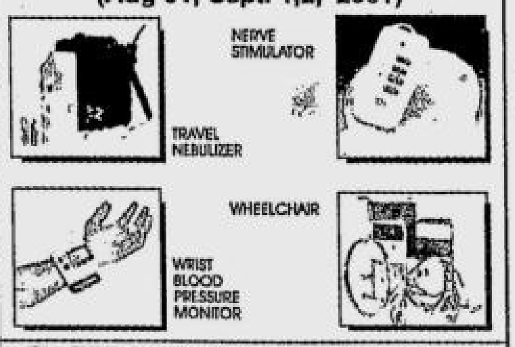

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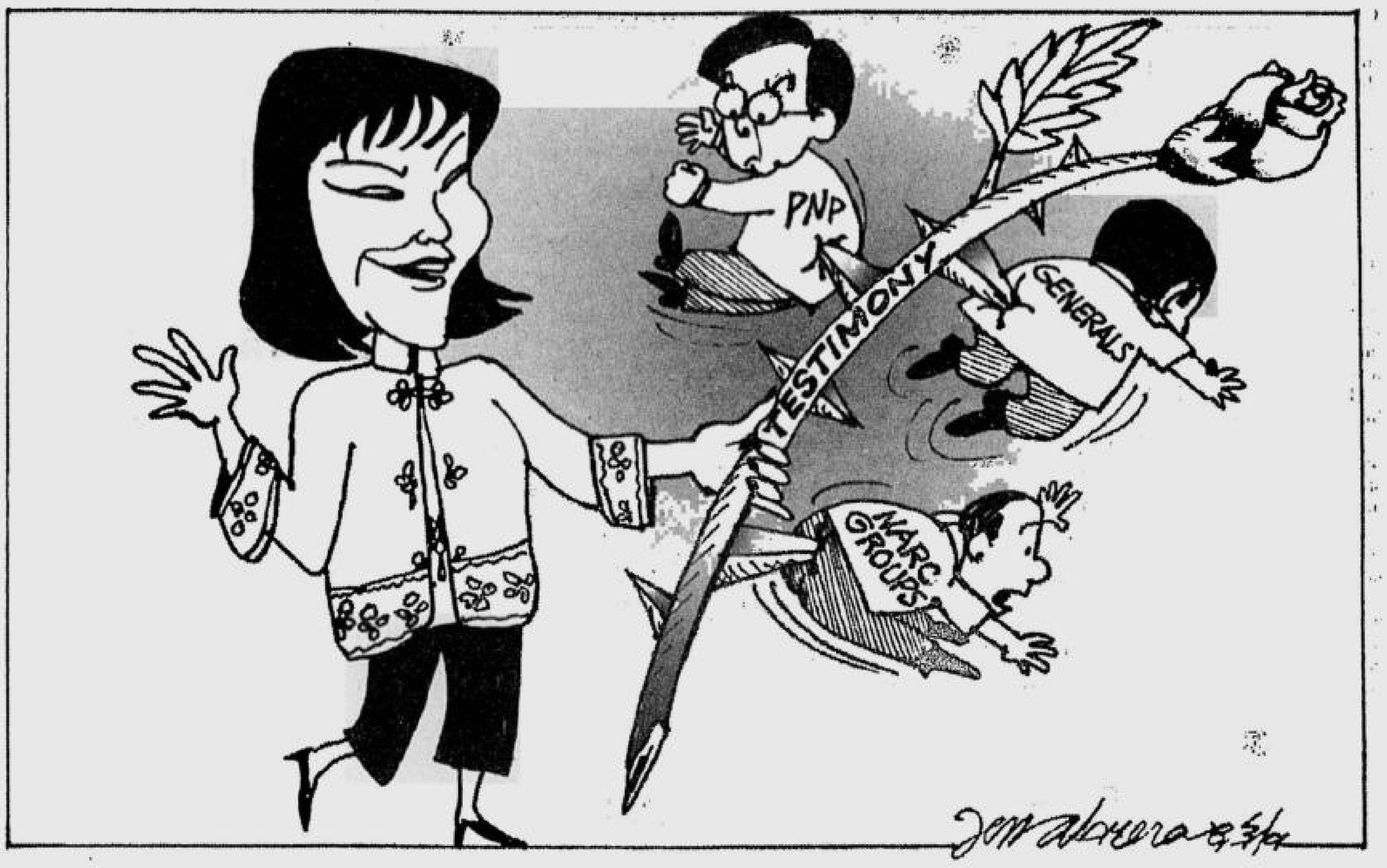


Economics over politics

EDITORIAL

THE NEW presidents of the most politically turbulent states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean)—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines and President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia—followed one another in visiting their Southeast Asian neighbors recently.

President Macapagal visited Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore. President Megawati visited Manila, then went to Singapore, Brunei and Malaysia.

Both leaders were warmly received by their older Asean colleagues as they followed a tradition among Asean leaders to give priority to visiting their neighbors and establishing personal ties with other leaders of the region. The visits were seen in the region as a fresh attempt to strengthen economic ties and revitalize the Asean after the 1997 Asian financial crisis which battered the regional economies.

In Kuala Lumpur, President Macapagal mended economic and political fences with Malaysia, and in Brunei, she made a pitch for the revival of the East Asia Growth Area that embraces Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines after it went moribund as a result of the financial meltdown as well as the political turbulence that attended the accession to power of Macapagal and Megawati.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad is an old hand in the Asean, having ruled Malaysia for more than a decade. In Malaysia, Ms Macapagal picked up the shreds of Malaysian-Philippine relations with new cooperation arrangements over border crossing. Her statement at the end of her Kuala Lumpur visit saying that she was not ruling out the option of imposing capital controls to halt the depreciation of the peso relative to the US dollar must have pleased Mahathir.

President Megawati's visit to Manila reaffirmed the close relations between Manila and Jakarta anchored on the fraternal ties between President Sukarno and President Macapagal in the early days of regional cooperation of the post-colonial period.

President Megawati and President Macapagal came to power under very similar circumstances. Both took power after a period of domestic turbulence. Megawati was elected president after Indonesia's highest state body, the constituent assembly, removed President Abdurrahman Wahid following an impeachment vote. Ms Macapagal succeeded President Joseph Estrada, following an aborted impeachment trial.

Their visits, however, highlighted the economic problems of the Philippines and Indonesia, and allowed them to present their efforts to rebuild their countries' economies. Megawati's Cabinet appointments have been favorably received in the region as a step toward restoring political stability in Indonesia. Ms Macapagal was able to project the larger economic picture during her visits, setting aside the domestic turmoil over legislative investigations of the alleged involvement of Sen. Panfilo Lacson in money laundering, drug trafficking, murder and other high crimes.

One salutary outcome of Megawati's visit to Singapore was the announcement that Indonesia and the International Monetary Fund have signed an agreement that would pave the way for the release of a $400-million loan tranche that the IMF had withheld because of differences with the Wahid government over its reform agenda. Also in Singapore, Megawati and Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong agreed to discuss all "issues of importance" in a "quiet and informal way."

Outside Manila and Jakarta, the view is different. The press in the region does not focus on the scandals in Manila or the problems of leadership change in Jakarta. There's hardly a mention of the scandals in Manila, and the view from outside makes the Filipinos appear like they have a penchant for self-laceration in the political arena.

The refreshing aspect of giving primacy to economic concerns over their domestic turbulence is that it projects to the world outside a picture of Asean leaders again coming together to find ways of reviving their economies as they confront the reality of a slowdown in the advanced Western economies which are their main export markets. For instance, almost forgotten on account of its obsession with domestic political squabbles is that the Philippine economy is holding up well despite the contraction of advanced economies and in fact a modest growth is forecast for the year 2001.

The signs in the region indicate that domestic turmoil is not being allowed to pull down efforts by its new leaders to revitalize their national agenda. It's time to separate the economy from the conflict of adversarial politics.

Buy artworks by National Artists for only ₱5,000 each

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

FOR P5,000, how would you like to have works of art by National Artists Carlos V. Francisco, Vicente Manansala, Arturo Luz, Cesar F. Legaspi, Ang Kiukok and by outstanding painters like Malang, Manny Baldemor, Danny Dalena, Paeng Asuncion and many others? Only a heathen will not want one at such a price. It's a bargain sale of artworks that nobody can beat, the chance of a lifetime.

How does one get to join such a bargain sale? All you have to do is buy a ticket to the grand raffle of artworks scheduled on Dec. 8, 2001. Hurry, only 100 tickets will be sold, each costing only P5,000. But the holder of each ticket will surely go home with a work of art. There will be 100 tickets and 100 art pieces. A painting for P5,000? Even if you go to the sidewalks of Mabini, you can't buy a painting that cheap. The art pieces you will win in the art raffle will be by name artists whose works normally cost tens and hundreds of thousands of pesos.

Why are they that cheap? Because the art pieces are donated by the artists to the NVM Gonzalez Short Story Awards. Each artist gets only P1,000 of the ticket price, for the cost of art materials. The balance of P4,000 goes to the NVM Awards to fund the prizes for the annual short story contest. So by buying a raffle ticket, you not only get to own a work of art by a famous Filipino artist, you also contribute for the prizes for the best short stories in English. The winners will be announced also on Dec. 8. Awarding of prizes and the art raffle will be held at the University of the Philippines School of Fine Arts in Diliman, Quezon City.

The awards for the best short stories in English are intended to encourage writing in the genre which NVM Gonzalez, National Artist for Literature, taught and practiced. There will be two prizes at P50,000 each: one for the best short story in English, and the other for the best first published short story by a beginner. The latter should be accompanied by a sworn statement that it is the author's first published story.

Individual authors and editors of national and school publications may submit entries in five copies per story, including the original published form. Send the entries to: The NVM Gonzalez Awards, c/o aklat @ la-ru-an, 2/F FBR Arcade, 317 Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, Quezon City, 1108. For inquiries, call Bang, 435-4573, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

* * *

Speaker Jose de Venecia is encouraging the use of bicycles in going to work to help ease the traffic congestion in Metro Manila. To promote the idea, JDV himself and some friends biked around the Batasan compound. But the Manila Meteor newspaper warned that there should first be bike lanes to make biking safe. Good point.

And so here is a suggestion for the Speaker: Commonwealth Avenue is at present being widened. Why not add a biking, jogging and walking lane on each side of Commonwealth from the Quezon Memorial Circle to the La Mesa Dam? The road right of way is wide enough to accommodate a bike lane. To protect the bikers and joggers from traffic, transplant the mahogany trees and anahaw palms that will be removed from Quezon Avenue to Commonwealth, between the bike lanes and the main avenue. The bike-jogging lanes will connect the two main parks of Quezon City (three including the Ninoy Aquino Park) to provide the people with places of relaxation, open space, fresh air, nature and wildlife.

The narrow lanes won't cost much but the House of Representatives, which is now discussing the 2002 budget, can appropriate the necessary funds. Or the Speaker and his fellow congressmen and bike enthusiasts can each contribute a little from their pork barrel allocations. Imagine how grateful Metro Manila residents, so starved for parks, will be to JDV and his congressmen.

* * *

My daughter came home from Megamall last week with a horror story. She was walking with a friend in the basement of Building A when she was bumped from behind by a store cart piled high with boxes of appliances belonging to Western Marketing. The boxes were so high that the utility man, Christopher Duatin, could not see where he was going. Yet he was careless and irresponsible enough to push the cart at such a speed as to make it dangerous to shoppers.

The cart hit my daughter in the back with such force that she was thrown forward and fell on her face. The utility man apologized but did not help her. He just went about his merry way.

Assisted by her friend, my daughter went limping to the Western Marketing store on the same floor to complain. But the store manager, Roger Galleros, ignored them. He kept fiddling with his computer, then talked with somebody on the telephone endlessly, deliberately trying to avoid talking to the two fuming girls. When he couldn't avoid the two determined girls anymore, he didn't apologize but merely said he would wait for the utility man, which could be until closing time.

Instead of wasting time with such an incompetent manager, the two girls left angrily vowing to complain to the management of Western Marketing.

Doesn't management teach their employees simple courtesy, politeness, how to behave, how to solve problems? That store manager certainly thought that by ignoring the problem, it would disappear. No, it won't. It will get bigger.

Pictures at an exhibition

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IN HIS autobiography, Duke Ellington wrote about his visit to Manila in 1971. Impressed as he was with Filipino hospitality, he was impressed even more by Filipino musicality. His rehearsals went without a hitch, thanks to the professionalism and proficiency of his colleagues. But he was impressed with one Filipino musician in particular. He wrote about him in this wise:

"This time, we are to play the concerts with the National Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Redentor Romero, who is a violinist and a brilliant musician. We of course are soon calling him 'Red' Romero! The performances are given a brand new arts center, a concrete masterpiece of the kind one finds in all the principal cities nowadays. There are a couple of rehearsals, and at the actual performances, I conduct 'Harlem.' We also play "Non-Violent Integration" and conclude with 'Night Creature.' One of the great moments occurs in the second movement of the last. On our record of it, there is a violin solo of Ray Nance. Red Romero has memorized it, absolutely perfectly. For such a virtuoso as he to do a retake on the original solo is really a magnificent compliment to Ray."

Maybe Ellington was just a magnanimous soul who, lavished by heaven with abundant gifts, merely loved to heap praise on his fellow musicians. But to be praised by possibly the greatest musician of the 20th century (a retrospective on Ellington last year suggested that, and I agree) in this way, that is a magnificent compliment itself. That is not something you are likely to forget.

Romero's loved ones haven't. Ellington's book is on display at the Ayala Museum, along with pictures, clippings and artifacts showing the range and fullness of his life. Romero died early this year, in April, from lung cancer. He was 72.

He went in fairly dramatic circumstances. He was supposed to conduct the orchestra at the Meralco Theater while Alexander Tomescu, the Romanian wunderkind, played Tchaikovsky's most famous violin composition, the Concerto in D. It never happened. Sofia, Romero's daughter, went up to the stage to say her father was lying in a hospital bed that night and could be with her audience only in spirit. Alas, it would be so not only that night but forever. The next day, Romero died.

Sofia would tell me later that she could not say her father was lying at death's door even then because she could almost hear him saying, "How dare you say that, don't count me out yet." Her father had clawed back again and again from adversity and it did not seem impossible that he would do so again. She herself thought that despite her father's seemingly desperate plight, the miracle would happen.

Sofia, who mounted the ongoing exhibit with help from the Ayalas, says she herself never realized until they started collecting her father's memorabilia how much he had accomplished in his life. How highly he was regarded by musicians and artists around the world, and what lengths they went to honor him, though quite ironically not in his own country.

The record of passage captured by the exhibit is impressive. The pictures in particular tell a fascinating tale, the progress of a boy, born of parents of modest means from Ilocos, who leaped from public school to the world's stage. In many of the pictures, Romero shares the company of some of the world's greatest musicians, playing violin with them, conducting the orchestra with them, sharing light moments with them. This was his world, this was his firmament, this was his home.

Two of those pictures alone are worth a fortune. In one of them, Duke Ellington has an arm around Romero's shoulder and is grinning broadly. In the other, a rehearsal obviously, Ellington is looking up from a grand piano while Romero, violin in hand, awaits his cue. Frozen in time, the images somehow unleash a power and life of their own.

In life, Romero was not always an easy person to deal with. He had his share of hurts, and resentments, and controversies. (What artist does not?) But you look at the exhibit, and the imperfections vanish like the warts and frayed socks of the orchestra players before the power of their music. For here, you find incontrovertible proof of talent, of somebody who was touched by heaven and given the power with the caress of a violin's bow and the flick of a baton to delight and move. Here, you find incontrovertible proof of generosity, of somebody who gave of himself to the world and made the world so much better for it.

I would learn new dimensions about Romero's generosity. After having lived in Russia for a time, Romero appeared to have accumulated a fortune in Russian icons or religious paintings, but he parted with it over the years to be able to keep the National Philharmonic alive. Such was the depth of his commitment to it—his whole life and more, his daughter would say. You can quibble about the man's ego, but you cannot quibble about his passion.

While I move around looking at the pictures, the strains of the Moscow Symphony Orchestra, which Romero is conducting, engulf the room. Magically, the room comes alive, and the glass case where Romero's violin lies in folds of satin glows brighter.

Sofia said on the night before her father died, that he could be with his audience only in spirit. I look at the pictures again and listen to the music, and I realize being in spirit wasn't just good enough, it was the only way a musician could really be with his audience. Or for that matter, anyone of us. There is only one place we really live in, and that is the hearts of the people we touch. The miracle has happened after all. Romero has come back from his last adversity.

I stop at the picture where Romero is waiting for his cue from Ellington. I think to myself: Maybe even now they're playing "Take the A Train" in the Great Concert Hall in the Sky.

The view from outside

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

SINGAPORE—Taking part in the International Monetary Fund Training Institute in Singapore early this week on the theme, "The IMF after the Asian Crisis—Change and Adaptation," unplugged us from the concerns in the Philippines over the Senate investigations of alleged money laundering and illegal drug trafficking going back to the previous administration.

The seminar offered a larger perspective of the primary interests of governments and the IMF: recovery from the 1997 Asian financial crisis. Their direction is toward financial reforms and learning from the lessons of the crisis.

The Singapore interlude also underlined the picture that in the post-1997 crisis, domestic political disturbances—like the legislative investigations—take the back seat. The message is, go back to the primacy of the economy and don't let political disturbances blur the redirection of the national agenda toward economic revival.

In the regional newspapers, domestic scandals, like those in the Philippines, are not on the radar screen. Political transitions, like the election of Megawati Sukarnoputri as president of Indonesia, and the visits of Asian leaders in the Asean region, including that of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, take the front page. What we get from the front pages of regional papers are stories of the larger sweep of economic and political events.

The effect of this exposure to this regional economic and political perspective is one of relief. It is like jumping out of the septic tank where we have been swimming in the course of the Philippine legislative investigations. The view from outside gives us a breath of fresh air. The view shows that there's life after the turbulence of political transition in unstable democracies, like the Philippines and Indonesia, and life springs from the economic renewal of the region.

The regional economic outlook does not give much room for complacency. In the medium-term, Kunio Saito, director of the IMF Asia-Pacific division, pointed out that starting this year, most of the Asian economies, with the possible exception of China and India, went on a "slowdown, if not recession." Short-term prospects for economic expansion "depends on what happens to advanced economies and the local global markets for IT (Information Technology)," Saito said. The United States and European Union economies are in a slump and a large portion of Asian exports consists of IT-related products and services.

Over the longer term, he said, the consensus among IMF economists is that Asian economies "will grow not as high as before the crisis." And the reforms and restructuring of the corporate and financial sectors of developing economies have not been moving as fast as desired.

The pivotal point for recovery is "to stop currency depreciation at all costs," he said, while conceding that capital controls, like those clamped down by Malaysia, are effective only as short-term measures to stop speculative attacks on currencies. By short-term, he means "three days, three weeks or three months."

From the reaction of the IMF senior executives who delivered lectures at the seminar, the Malaysian model of capital controls, or other similar measures adopted by other countries in the throes of attacks on their currencies, cannot be adopted as a universal formula for currency stabilization.

The new leaders of the Philippines and Indonesia have inherited a legacy of political turmoil from previous governments which they can ill-afford to ignore. The politics of change has fostered a slew of political problems that have to be addressed to push the process of cleansing the legacy of corruption.

In the Philippines, it is illuminating to view the Senate investigations on money laundering and drug trafficking as an extension of investigations started by the exposé of Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson last October on the alleged illegal gambling kickbacks of deposed President Joseph Estrada. These kickbacks were key articles in the impeachment trial of Estrada and evidence derived from the trial now forms part of the criminal plunder charges laid against Estrada with the Sandiganbayan by the Office of the Ombudsman.

The Senate inquiry is merely an extension of what had been previously undisclosed dimensions of Estrada's accumulation of money and assets. The second envelope that was locked by the Senate during the trial contained evidence showing Estrada to have accumulated deposits worth P3 billion in a bank account. The question that nagged prosecutors and a large part of the public was, if Estrada had more than P3 billion in the bank, so much money could not be accounted for by the *jueteng* kickbacks which, according to Singson's testimony, amounted to about P400 million. So what were the other unexplained sources of revenue flowing to Estrada?

This shifted the focus of military intelligence investigation to drug-trafficking as the source, even months before the May senatorial elections.

The Senate hearings on drug trafficking have implicated Estrada's chief of the Philippine National Police, Panfilo Lacson, now senator. Intelligence reports on Lacson's overseas accounts, and alleged involvement in drug trafficking and more recently, in kidnapping for ransom, have been disclosed in the Senate hearings.

Estrada himself has been linked by witnesses to kidnapping for ransom and his son, Jude, was tagged by a witness as a conduit for drug distribution. The enlargement of the scope of Estrada's alleged illegal activities from *jueteng* to kidnap for ransom and drug trafficking as a source of revenue opens new dimensions of underground revenue-generation.

The Senate inquiry is, in effect, a continuation of the Singson exposé, unveiling new aspects of drug-related revenue raising, involving top police officers during the Estrada administration, the ex-president himself and his cronies. This inquiry is part of the process of coming to terms with our past, but it should not stand on the way of economic recovery initiatives.

Nobody 'deserves' HIV

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

RECENTLY, there was a report that a ranking Abu Sayyaf leader has been infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. The leader was allegedly infected after having sex with one of their hostages, though one has to wonder how this was determined.

Reacting to this report, Presidential Assistant for Eastern Mindanao Jesus Dureza "joked" that he would give a medal of honor to the woman, he presumes, responsible for this. "I am trying to find out who is doing this great service to the nation and give a medal to that lady," Dureza was quoted by a newspaper.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez took a more "spiritual" view, saying that it was the law of karma at work.

Now, I'm as incensed at the abuses of the Abu Sayyaf as anyone else, but to rejoice at any one of them being infected with HIV is, well, inhuman and unkind. And to say that anyone, even an Abu Sayyaf leader, ever "deserves" to be living with HIV, is to reinforce the negative stereotypes that have made pariahs out of people living with HIV. I'm sure that if the Abu Sayyaf leader was found to have brain cancer, Dureza and Golez would not have been so crass as to make jokes about it.

Also, how sure is Dureza that the "culprit" or "hero" who infected the Abu Sayyaf leader with HIV is a woman, or a foreign hostage or a hostage at all? Again, that's talking from knee-jerk stereotypes, and he owes all women, and all the hostages, an apology for such a stupid and thoughtless remark.

* * *

CELLULAR phone companies have provided many reasons to justify their decision to cut, by more than 60 percent, the allocation of free text messages for both pre- and post-paid subscribers. In a letter to Rep. Augusto Syjuco, Globe SVP for corporate and regulatory affairs Rodolfo Salalima, cited the following reasons:

- **Their revenues are insufficient for capital expenditures needed to upgrade and expand their services, for which their debt has "ballooned" from P18 billion last year to P36.8 billion.**
- **Their expenses have also risen as a consequence of the depreciation of the peso against the dollar, resulting in a foreign exchange loss of about P6.5 billion.**
- **They chose to cut the free allocation of text messages to subscribers as the "least painful" alternative to other measures to offset these losses. The other options available were to impose a "foreign currency adjustment" charge on subscribers, while the other was to increase the rates for voice calls and/or text messages.**

In that same letter, Salalima said the text messaging service is a "deregulated" service and is thus exempt from what he calls the "quasi-judicial processes, regulations and rigidities" of the National Telecommunications Commission. Neither can the agreements or contracts they enter into with pre- and post-paid subscribers be considered as guaranteeing subscribers a fixed number of free text messages for an indefinite period.

From the tone of the letter, dated Aug. 23, it would seem that Globe, through Salalima, is standing pat on its decision, and that they owe no explanations or favors to either the government or its subscribers.

Perhaps it's such perceived arrogance that's got the NTC and their customers enraged at both Smart and Globe. Although recent reports say both cell phone firms have begun "reconsidering" their options in face of the widespread protests from texters.

* * *

AT THIS point, I'm willing to grant some good faith on the part of Globe and Smart executives. They may have, with all the sincerity of hard-nosed businessmen, honestly thought the cutback on free texting was the least painful imposition on subscribers. After all, it would be "free of cost" to subscribers, who would not be paying any additional amount or losing entirely their text messaging allocations. They may even have been lulled by arguments that Philippine cell phone companies already charge the lowest rates in the region for text messages beyond the "free" allocation.

But they did not reckon with the emotional factor, and how much their subscribers, overwhelmingly young and extremely loyal, love to text.

This is not to say that the argument of the "antis" is devoid of reason, since they do have strong points, especially since both Smart and Globe have not been modest about the tremendous profits they've been making. When you brag about making over P1 billion in profits, then turn around and say you're also losing billions in capital expenditures, then the public can be forgiven for its skepticism.

But the reaction would not have been so vehement if the companies had only bothered to consult their customers, or at least measure their attachment to the feature. Free texting is certainly a huge factor in the growth of the cell phone market. I know many cell phone users who use their phones only for texting, and have come to look on this as their only means of communication.

Perhaps Smart and Globe should have taken a look first at a recent national Urban Youth Survey (by McCann Erickson) which found that young people in Metro Manila say they were willing to skip meals if only to save money for their cell phone subscriptions. You ignore or exploit such devotion only at your own risk.

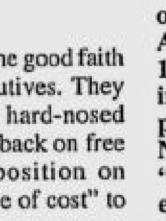
* * *

DR. Rosario Lapus, vice president for academic affairs of Miriam College, wrote to correct some figures in this column on the college's 75th Jubilee celebration on Sept. 8.

It seems the figures I cited on the performance of high school seniors in the National Secondary Achievement Test (NSAT) were for school year 1999-2000. Miriam High School's NSAT ranking in school year 2000-2001 was No. 1 among private high schools in Quezon City, No. 5 in the National Capital Region, and No. 13 nationwide, "making us the No. 1 girls' school with the highest NSAT score."

A first step toward writing a national history

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

IN THE POPULAR mind, the province of Pampanga is known for or associated with a number of things like: lahar, "the poor boy from Lubao," *sisig*, GMA, woodcarving (remember, they make "modern antiques"), Lito Lapid, sugar, Mt. Arayat, Jose and Pedro Abad Santos, Huks, *tabang talangka*, Rufino Cardinal Santos, giant Christmas lanterns which sometimes approximate the height of a house, Holy Week flagellants, live crucifixions on Good Friday, Dolphy, Patsy and Doña Buding. I could go on and fill this column with things Kapampangan, but bored non-Kapampangans would probably not read beyond the first paragraph. Thinking of all the Kapampangans and Kapampangan influences that intrude into our national life and history, I wonder if we will ever have a "national" history.

The Philippines is an archipelago with over 7,000 islands. Nobody knows the exact number of islands, and when a Filipino is pressed to give an exact figure, the glib way to hide his ignorance is to ask another question: The number of islands? High tide or low tide?

All these islands have their own separate (local) histories. The Philippines is not just broken up by islands but also by different languages, cultures, religions, etc.

Every semester when I enter a classroom and begin yet another undergraduate course on "Philippine" history, I wonder why much of the discussions of the 19th-century center on Rizal, Bonifacio, Aguinaldo and other "national heroes." Perhaps, one can actually describe present Philippine history as narrated in textbooks as "a local history of Manila."

One of the lasting effects of the 1998 Philippine Centennial is that it brought the focus out of Manila and into the provinces. We started to hear of other historical events and found new heroes. Local history was encouraged and now one must prepare for the merging of all these into a national history. Next week, from Sept. 3 to 5, the Holy Angel University in Angeles will host the First International Conference on Kapampangan Studies that will gather scholars, academics and other interested parties into a group that will look deeper into the history and culture of Pampanga.

I was born and raised in Manila, but almost all my weekends from childhood to age 20 were spent in my grandmother's home in San Fernando (what better way to imbibe culture but through food and family?). I would have become a fluent Kapampangan speaker if not for my Tagalog mother who discouraged the language of my father at home, fearful that I would not be able to shake off the distinct Kapampangan accent and its way with the letter "h." The letter is often dropped where it is needed, e.g. (h)orse and (h)ouse, and added when it is not there as in (h)Asian (h)institute or (h)Ambeth.

To counter this, my father would give a lecture on the merits of his language (it is **not** a dialect), Kapampangan, over Tagalog by citing a number of examples from nature. An ant is *langgam* in Tagalog but *(h)ayup* in Kapampangan. An egg is but *itlog* when one travels from Manila to Bulacan, but when you cross the river into Apalit, that same unhatched egg has become an *ebun*.

During the conference in Angeles City, there will be welcome sessions on language and literature. A paper on Kapampangan linguistics will be read by Andrew Gonzales; another on Kapampangan and Austronesian by Jojo Malig; on Crissot and Crissotan by Vim Nadera; on Aurelio Tolentino by Apo Chua; and on Diosdado Macapagal as a poet by Erlita Mendoza.

There will be papers on archaeology, a whole session on geological changes and Mt. Pinatubo, a session on genealogy, papers on archival sources for Kapampangan history, with a paper written by Cristina Barron Soto, a historian from Mexico City (not Mexico, Pampanga). To wrap this up, there will be a paper on Kapampangan historiography by Bernardita Churchill.

For those who get their kicks from esoteric academic cogitations, there will be a paper on fishing technology and techniques of the swamp fishermen of San Agustin, Candaba and Faunal groups on the northwestern slope of Mt. Arayat.

To keep the conference from becoming too academic, some people have been invited to talk on their role in history. If everyone on the program turns up, I can't wait to see the chemistry and body language of a mixed bag of people in one session: Tessie Oreta, Luis Taruc and Rodolfo Salas a.k.a. Kumander Bilog.

As a historian I want to see how Florentino Iniego, Federico Laxa and Ysagani Ybarra will tackle the Macabebes and their role in the capture of Emilio Aguinaldo by the Americans in 1901. Kapampangans have never lived down this sordid historical episode. Some people describe Kapampangans as *dugong aso* (traitors) because of this. I think the Macabebe scouts were the best mercenaries money could buy in 1901, and they probably did not know who Aguinaldo was. Can't we excuse them by saying *walang personalan trabaho lang ito*?

And what about the other revolts against Spain that were crushed by "loyal" soldiers from Pampanga?

Then as now, the Philippines is separated by ethno-linguistic barriers and only when we merge all these local histories into one national history can we hope to know who we are, where we came from and where we are going. This conference is the first step in the proverbial journey of a thousand miles.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

The gold craze

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

SKAGWAY, Alaska—Dreams. Adventure. Hope. Desperation. Failure. Frenzy. Violence. Greed. Power. Mob Rule. Shootouts. Murder.

All these elements of nature and life in the raw played out in the Great Klondike Gold Rush on this rugged land in the late 1890s. This town, with only 800 residents now, is called Skagway, derived from the Tlingit "*skagua*," which means "home of the north wind." It abounds in legends, especially one in which a beautiful Tlingit maiden who married "North Wind" was blown over the river and drowned.

Skagway may have been more pristine a century ago but certainly not this serene and sparse. This historic port, sitting at the top of the Inside Passage, was at the heart of a frenzied gold rush which turned the place into a boomtown. Around 1897, nearly 20,000 gold seekers (gold diggers, if you will) descended on this village on the way to the White Pass and Chilkoot trails, believed to be the fastest and easiest routes to their future fortune in gold. Many never made it to their destinations, defeated by the forces of nature in their desperate search for gold deep in the Yukon mountain territory. Real gold or fool's good—it didn't matter to these lusty men with dreams of becoming instant millionaires.

It was not only a gold rush really. Not even a gold fever, except a tremendously high-grade one, enough to make one delirious. It was a gold craze, an uncontrollable madness which turned gold-hungry men into driven seekers of fortune who had lost all fear and perspective. They came from faraway places after reading San Francisco and Seattle newspapers, which headlined that ships loaded with gold from the Klondike had landed in the docks in July 1897. The news spread like wildfire. The newspapers even printed maps to accompany the stories showing the quickest routes to the gold fields in Alaska. Tales of gold. What better way to fire the imagination of restless and determined treasure hunters!

To get the story straight, the traveler has to rewind to 1887, 10 years before the rush, when a riverboat captain named William Moore came ashore and the place was never the same again. Guided by Tlingit natives, Moore settled the valley floor, built a dock, charged toll fees and in effect founded the town of Skagway. The Chilkoot had been used for centuries as a trade route by the Tlingits.

As shiploads of gold seekers arrived in the fall of 1897, the settlement all but went crazy and Moore was all but forgotten. Towns sprang up around Skagway and at nearby Dyea, and the rest was history.

Skagway was described as just a "little better than a hell on earth." It attracted criminals, conmen and other undesirable elements. The town became the watering hole for the largest band of gangsters in North America. Brawls in bars were common. The most notorious of them all was Jefferson Randolph "Soapy" Smith, who owned a saloon from which he oversaw his criminal empire based on the gold craze.

The saloons, brothels, hotels and restaurants that you now see only on old Western movies over cable TV sprang up during the 1898 rush. Today, they have been reconstructed as false-fronted stores, renovated hotels and museums. The reconstruction has done a good job of recreating and retaining the 1898 gold craze atmosphere.

And there's more, folks. Stick around. Local lore will tell you about how "Soapy" Smith was done in, a retribution resembling a "wages of sin" morality play. A "good guy" by the name of Frank Reid and a band of 101 vigilantes washed gangster extraordinaire "Soapy" down the proverbial drain. While going up White Pass on this train that takes you to the summit 3,000 feet above, you'll see a cross marking "Soapy's" grave.

This train, colored yellow and green, that's now taking us through this breathtaking mountain scenery has a bloody history as well. Imagine constructing a railroad up the Cordillera at its most rugged and steep points, and you can appreciate how this Yukon-bound train came to being. It's a marvel of early engineering, and probably no tunnel in the world was constructed under more difficult circumstances than the one on Mile 16. The poor workers had to haul tons of machinery and equipment up the side of a 1,000-foot cliff to blow it up for the tunnel. The blast produced by the ignited black powder could be heard and felt as far away as Skagway, Nearly 450 tons of explosives were used to build the railroad from Skagway to the summit. It's just truly mind-boggling—this mountain railroad engineering project, which, of course, would be easier to do today with modern technology.

The human cost was staggering. The men were required to bring up 2,000 pounds each worth of supplies to be able to work in the mountains. They had to go back and forth through the steep trails several times as they could only carry so much in one trip. Heavy snow and temperatures as cold as minus 65 degrees Fahrenheit sent people to their deaths. All for the love of gold.

As in other gold stories marked by greed and the other elements I mentioned in the beginning, this one did not have a happy ending. All together, there were 100,000 hopefuls who headed north in that mad era of glittering gold stories. Only 30,000 reached the Dawson gold fields. And of those, about half got gold fatigue and didn't even bother anymore to look for the stupid gold. Only a few thousands ended up "prospecting," and only a few hundreds struck it rich beyond their wildest dreams. Finally, just a few souls managed to hang on to their newfound wealth.

Of course, as I'm winding down, literally and otherwise, from this unforgettable trip through Alaskan gold fever history, I keep thinking of Ferdinand's gold, Yamashita's gold, Irene's gold, whose ever gold. Haydee, you better find it, so I can write another book.

Belinda A. Aquino, is a political scientist based at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and the author of "Politics of Plunder: The Philippines Under Marcos," reissued in 1999.

THEY SAID

Road to self-destruction

"The Senate is bent on self-destruction. It acts like a lemming. We cannot go on like this."

—Sen. John Osmeña, suggesting that the Senate appoint a general counsel to screen all witnesses in the investigation of Sen. Panfilo Lacson

Unified approach

"The country does not lack in good intentions from concerned sectors for the growth of tourism. What it lacks is a unified approach to achieve the common goal of bringing in more tourists to the country under the tenets of sustainable and socially responsible tourism."

—Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon

Reason for investing

"If you invested here, it is not because you love us but because you make money from us."

—Cebu Mayor Tomas Osmeña, addressing Smart Communications Inc. officials and employees during the inauguration of the company's switch center in the province

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A dose of their own medicine

THE CONTROVERSIAL 67 percent reduction in free text messaging has exposed Globe Telecom and Smart Communications Inc. for what they really are: two conniving, big-time monopolists of the telecommunications industry.

They would deny that they colluded to cut the number of free text messages for their subscribers but no amount of denial would convince their patrons otherwise. The fact remains that they unilaterally decided to cut down the free text messaging to rake in more profits and not to expand their network or to improve the quality and diversity of their services, as they claim.

These two cell phone firms are not losing money. In fact, they have been profiting a lot as evidenced by their reported P27 billion combined income. What's repulsive is that they are resolved to earn more even if it means bleeding their subscribers dry.

It's time that we, the 10 million Globe and Smart subscribers, gave these greedy telecom firms a dose of their own medicine. Let's bleed them dry, too. Let's unite. Pinoy texters, join the Sept. 1 mass protest and show these companies that without us they are nothing.—**MILES A. SERVIDAD, 300 Kamias St., Cembo, Makati City**

LETTERS

Press statement, not advertisement

PLEASE be informed that the Philippine Bar Association (PBA) never denounced former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada in full-page advertisements during my term as PBA president. What the PBA did at its Oct. 20, 2000 board meeting was to call for the resignation of Mr. Estrada in the face of the exposé of Gov. Luis Singson to spare our country from further economic ruin. Such call indeed found print in a number of dailies as a press statement and not in full-page advertisements as wrongly asserted by columnist Victor C. Agustin in the Aug. 22 issue of your paper.

The PBA records will also show that I abstained from voting on the resolution even as I respected the decision of the majority. Agustin, of course, finds it hard to understand that there can be unity in diversity especially in a collegial and 110-year-old organization like the PBA.

Finally, the records will also show that my election to the Philcomsat board was upon the nomination of the late Potenciano Ilusorio, the founding father of the telecommunications industry in the Philippines.—**FEDERICO R. AGCAOILI, president, Philippine Bar Association, Suite 347, Valero Plaza, 124 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City**

Rage against SSS bonanza

IT is with deep rage and anger that I write this letter in reaction to your editorial last Aug. 15 titled, "Bad-year bonanza." I hope that this letter will be published so that the incompetent, inutile, self-serving ex-President of the Republic, the former chair of the Social Security System (and I am not referring to Vitaliano Nañangas II) and his unpatriotic and anti-masses vice presidents, especially Horacio Templo, directors, department heads and the rest of the SSS employees will read this.

I am aware of the probable repercussions of my act when I avail myself of my benefits in the future. But who cares? I believe that I, together with all the paying members of the SSS, am the real boss of that God-forsaken (at least for now) agency and all of them are supposed to be serving me and the other SSS members.

I agree with all the points that you raised in your editorial, and I just hope that I can buy many copies of that issue for distribution to all the employees of the SSS, especially those who are acting holier than thou, so that the article would consciencitize them enough to realign their loyalty and interest toward their real bosses, the paying members of the SSS. I cannot describe enough my rage and disappointment or to put it in Filipino, my *pagkainis na inis* and my desire *na pagkukutusan (kahit sa kutos makabawi man lang) ang mga walang kuwentang empleyado ng* SSS because of what they did: for being *bulag* and *bingi* (*sana kung totoo*) to what their "bosses" were doing because they also enjoyed picking up the "crumbs" (for the dogs) that their bosses threw to them; and for "ousting" a corporate man of integrity who knew what he was doing (now I'm referring to Nañagas).

It is not my intention to give any suggestions on what to do to solve the agency's present woes and financial position. The intention of this letter is to express a member's opinion and feeling so that those in the SSS would know that their real bosses are concerned and fed up with the issues raised in your editorial. Should the SSS go bankrupt or be unable to service their accountabilities (like pensions, loans and other benefits due to members) in the near future, they will know what real people power is!

I wish we, the 23 million-strong members, could do more than write a letter like this. I wish we could organize by local, provincial then regional chapters so that our representatives can go directly to the SSS chair or even be involved in the selection of the chair, vice presidents and directors so that the same bonanza would not be given again.

I also hope that your newspaper will feature follow-up articles regarding the SSS issue so that other members will be more aware of what's happening to their hard-earned money.

My apologies for the "bad" words that I used, but I am not sorry for using them for I have to drive my point home.

I admire your newspaper's courage and the people who make it possible to print the truth and who speak the truth even if it brings danger to their lives. I also hope Erap will think twice about pursuing his P100-million libel suit against the INQUIRER.

My support is with you!—**REYNALDO J. VILLEGAS, 2nd Floor, CCP Bldg., National Highway, Landayan, San Pedro, Laguna**

Motorcycles still harassed on tollways

THIS refers to the letter of Luis Sison, chair and chief executive officer of the Philippine National Construction Corp. last Aug. 27, 2001. ("Motorcyclists on tollways must obey rules")

As one of the petitioners in the court case which invalidated the ban on motorcycles in the tollways, I am pleased that the PNCC has, after many years of rigid opposition, finally embraced the universal principle that motorcyclists have as much right as other licensed motorists to the use of public roads. However, this acceptance of motorcyclists by the PNCC is insincere at best, as Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) DO No. 123, Series of 2001 and the supplementary PNCC guidelines contrive to, in our opinion, unlawfully maintain the ban on the vast majority of motorcyclists while brazenly subjecting those capable of complying to an illegal PNCC-managed registration process—a form of bureaucratic harassment and *"tong"* collection partially described in Sison's letter.

DPWH DO No. 123 was hastily issued without requisite public hearing. This order, which Sison recommended to Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong, is merely a variation on a proposal submitted by the court case petitioners to the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) in the first quarter of this year in the hope of finding a mutually beneficial out-of-court settlement. Changes to the petitioners' proposal and inserted into DO No. 123 include an arbitrary and clearly anti-poor ban on motorcycles with less than 400 cc engine displacement (eliminating access for almost all motorcycles in the country and certainly 100 percent of all locally manufactured motorcycles), a dubious delegation of regulatory powers to the PNCC, and an unsafe ban on motorcycle lane-splitting under any traffic conditions contrary to universally accepted safe riding practices. In addition, through DO No. 123, the DPWH has illegally usurped the toll rate-setting function of the TRB by declaring that motorcycles shall pay the same rate as cars.

Despite Sison's appeal to motorcyclists to abide by the DPWH and PNCC guidelines, the PNCC continues to demonstrate contempt for the law in several ways. First, motorcyclists have been apprehended as a matter of PNCC policy for using the tollways even after it received a copy of the court ruling and prior to the implementation of the highly irregular, DO No. 123. Second, the PNCC has for years been violating the total ban on motorcycles and even now continues to violate the DPWH order by fielding motorcycles with only one-third of the required engine displacement to patrol the tollways. Third, in defiance of a Supreme Court ruling declaring the Land Transportation Office as the only agency qualified to determine a motor vehicle's roadworthiness and to require registration and driver's licensing, it has embarked on a program requiring motorcyclists and any passengers that they may have to secure a PNCC license/ID and submit their motorcycles for inspection/registration at the PNCC offices at a cost of P150 per motorcyclist.

Because of these acts on the part of the DPWH and PNCC, which we see as clearly unlawful, the petitioners continue to seek full realization of the "equal rights" of duly licensed motorcyclists so rightly pointed out by Al Mendoza, through, among others, the filing of contempt of court charges against Sison and Datumanong.—**JAMES MIRASOL, Sheridan Street, Mandaluyong City**

Air pact with Singapore lauded

THE FREEDOM to Fly Coalition congratulates the Macapagal administration's recent act of signing a new air rights agreement with Singapore. This is a clear sign of the government's commitment to the economic growth and well-being of its 75 million citizens.

The Philippines has everything to gain under the new agreement. First, the provision for multiple designation will allow more Filipino carriers for passengers and cargo to fly the route. Previously, the agreement limited the carriers to be designated by both countries to two. For the Philippines, these were Philippine Airlines and Pacific East Asia Cargo. The new agreement gives other Filipino passenger and cargo airlines like Cebu Pacific, Air Philippines and Asia Overnight the opportunity to join, thus expanding the choices for travel by foreigners and our *balikbayans* and overseas Filipino workers based in Singapore.

This is certainly good news for some 130,000 Filipinos based in Singapore. Of the total number, about 38 percent of them are Filipino workers.

Additionally, there are an estimated 725,000 Filipinos in Europe who will benefit from greater access between Europe and Manila via Singapore Airlines.

It also enhances trade and investments by offering more cargo opportunities between the two countries.

Second, the increase in capacity will allow the uncoupling of the Singapore-Davao-Cebu route by Singapore's SilkAir by allowing that airline to provide dedicated flights each to Davao and Cebu. This will greatly increase air access to both destinations.

It will also allow Singapore Airlines to increase capacity on the Singapore-Manila (and vice versa) route. Aside from its direct benefit between the two countries, this route also provides access from Europe to Manila which is currently not served by the Philippines.

All this will ultimately result in benefits for consumers and businesses with more affordable prices and better service rendered by the competing airlines.

We also laud Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez's announcement that the Department of Transportation and Communications is working overtime on the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order 219. While EO 219 clearly seeks the liberalization of air access to the country for the benefit of national interest, sadly, certain parties used the EO to justify their selfish agenda and protectionist policies.

The issuance of a corresponding IRR ensures that the real intent of EO 219 is upheld and that the true national interest—the interest of 75 million Filipinos—is met.—**NARZALINA LIM, MILA ABAD, CAPT. BEN SOLIS, TERESITA HENDERSON, Freedom to Fly Coalition**

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Are missile defenses a key to survival?

NEWS ANALYSIS

George Gedda

WASHINGTON—It's probably just as well that Paul Maginot, French war minister in the late 1920s, never lived to see the sad result of what he thought was a surefire plan to protect his country from a German invasion. His Maginot Line, stretching the length of the French-German border, was regarded as the most technologically advanced homeland defense in history. In 1940, eight years after Maginot's death, the Germans indeed invaded France and simply drove around the line, using Belgium as the entry point. Maginot's creation was reduced to irrelevance.

Robert Sherman, an arms expert at the Federation of American Scientists, believes President George W. Bush's proposed missile defense system is no less fanciful than was the Maginot Line.

He poses the not-so-illusory hypothesis of a nuclear-equipped foreign aggressor who wishes to kill a large number of innocent Americans. The despot has the option of using an intercontinental ballistic missile, known as an ICBM, or clandestine delivery. As for the latter, the aggressor could put the bomb in the hold of a merchant ship and explode it in an American harbor. Or he could put it in an airliner destined for a large city, or have it driven there in a rental truck.

"The ICBM would be more expensive, less accurate and much less reliable than clandestine delivery," Sherman writes in the federation's journal, Public Interest Report. "Even more important, the ICBM would leave an unmistakable return address, while clandestine delivery offers at least the possibility of anonymity."

Sherman's message: The ICBM threat is overstated so why should the United States, by developing a national missile defense, encourage aggressive tyrants to seek the safer, more effective clandestine alternative for striking at US population centers?

Ah, but suppose the objective of enemy countries is not to kill innocent Americans but to alter US foreign policy? Given the choice, perhaps most hostile governments would prefer the latter.

John E. McLaughlin, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said in a speech in Alabama last week that an aggressive despot doesn't actually have to use his ICBM in order to extract political gains from the United States. He notes that Iran, Iraq and North Korea are developing such weapons and suggests that the mere possibility of their use would complicate American decision-making in a crisis. He says it could—as a form of blackmail—prevent the United States from coming to the aid of friends and allies in such a situation.

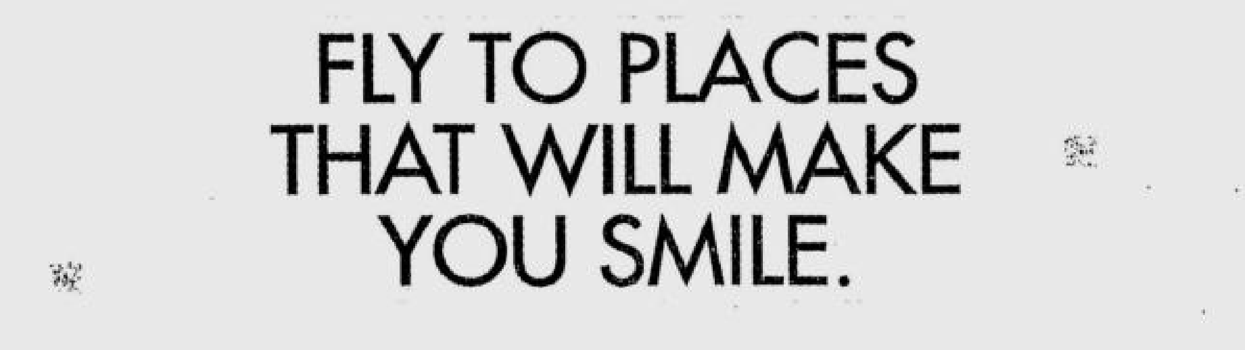
These ICBM countries, McLaughlin says, may not even have to test their missiles in order to have the desired political impact. "For them, it may be enough to demonstrate their capabilities in the form of a space launch vehicle—a strategy that could achieve the twin goals of deterrence and prestige without the political and economic costs that a long-range ballistic missile test might bring."

McLaughlin predicts that the United States has some breathing room, but not much. "The intelligence community continues to project that as we progress through the next 15 years, our country most likely will face ICBM threats from North Korea, probably from Iran and possibly from Iraq"—barring significant changes in their political orientations.

Of these three, North Korea is the most likely to renounce the ICBM option. Pyongyang indicated to the United States last fall a willingness to curb missile development in exchange for economic benefits. But now it seems hesitant. It has yet to respond to an offer by Bush almost three months ago to resume the discussions. Secretary of State Colin Powell says the administration is ready to resume the talks any time, any place.

Whatever the North Korean decision, the United States faces a long, bitter debate over the pluses and minuses of missile defense.

AP



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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Israel pulls out of West Bank town

BEIT JALA, West Bank—Israeli troops withdrew from the autonomous Palestinian West Bank town of Beit Jala at dawn yesterday, after Israel's longest incursion of the 11-month uprising became bogged down by armed resistance and international criticism.

AN ISRAELI soldier covers his head with a prayer shawl as he says morning prayers atop his tank near the Jewish settlement of Har Gilo, just outside the West Bank town of Beit Jala Aug. 30. REUTERS

"Our forces have left Beit Jala in exchange for a Palestinian undertaking to observe the peace in the area," an Israeli Army spokesperson said.

Tanks, jeeps and armored personnel carriers took the troops swiftly out of the little town, key areas of which they had controversially occupied for some 50 hours, according to an AFP correspondent at the scene.

Col. Faruq Amin of the Palestinian liaison office in the sector confirmed the withdrawal of the troops, whose takeover of Beit Jala had drawn strong criticism from abroad.

An Israeli military spokesperson said earlier that no Palestinian attacks had been launched during the night, the key condition for an Israeli withdrawal from the positions they had seized overnight Monday.

The Israeli withdrawal was met by joyful outbursts from Beit Jala residents, and Palestinian fighters let off volleys of gunfire into the air.

According to Israeli television a round of machinegun fire hit the nearby Jewish settlement of Gilo, in east Jerusalem, causing no injuries.

Israeli officials warned that army units posted at the entrance to Beit Jala remained ready to return should Palestinian gunfire in the area resume.

"Our forces are deployed very close to Beit Jala and could intervene in a very different fashion if there is any resumption of the shooting," Israeli government secretary general Gideon Saar said on television.

The green light for the troop withdrawal was given during a three-hour overnight meeting of the Israeli inner Cabinet, a political source in Jerusalem said.

Israel and the Palestinians agreed Wednesday to a ceasefire in Beit Jala, with Israel saying its forces would withdraw overnight if Palestinian shooting on the nearby Jewish settlement at Gilo, in occupied east Jerusalem, was halted.

Exchanges of gunfire could be heard in the area up to 10 p.m., after which calm was restored to Beit Jala.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon presided over the inner Cabinet meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Defense Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer and three other ministers, including new minister without portfolio Dan Meridor of the Center Party.

"We hope that the ceasefire will be observed and if this is the case it could be extended to other sectors, and lead to the opening of political negotiations but there is no guarantee," Meridor said in a radio interview after the meeting.

After the meeting, Sharon telephoned US Secretary of State Colin Powell to inform him of the decision, the political source said.

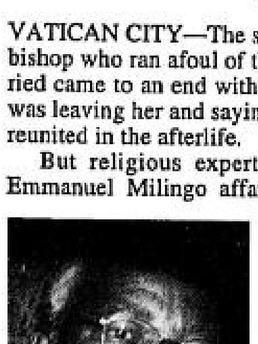
The United States had been strongly critical of the Israeli incursions into Palestinian autonomous territory.

Powell swiftly rang Arafat, to tell him the news, according to a Palestinian official. *AFP*

Wife accedes archbishop leaving her

VATICAN CITY—The soap-opera saga of an archbishop who ran afoul of the Vatican by getting married came to an end with his wife accepting that he was leaving her and saying she hopes they would be reunited in the afterlife.

But religious experts say the impact of the Emmanuel Milingo affair is likely to linger—although more so for the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification movement than the Vatican, which has weathered plenty of scandals in its 2,000-year history.



MILINGO

The Unification movement, they say, may have hurt its cause of trying to gain more mainstream respectability by accusing the Vatican of having drugged, brainwashed and kidnapped the archbishop—accusations often leveled against sects.

The Vatican made mistakes too, but it may take longer for Moon's movement to recover, said Massimo Introvigne, a noted Unification expert and the head of the Center for Studies on New Religions in Turin, Italy.

Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo and Maria Sung parted ways Wednesday night, ending a saga that captivated Italy for weeks as Sung and her Unification supporters demanded the Vatican let her see her husband.

After three weeks of separation, the two met for three hours Wednesday evening at a Rome hotel. Milingo explained his reasons for why he had to leave her because of his commitments to the church; she said she accepted them.

"For the great love for my husband, I'll respect his decision" Sung told reporters after the meeting ended. "But that doesn't change the feeling I have for him in my heart."

She spoke from inside a hotel window to avoid the crush of reporters outside—adopting a similar tactic used by the Pope nearly every week in his appearances at St. Peter's Square. *AP*

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Australia defies globe over refugees

SYDNEY—Australia stood firm yesterday in its vow to keep out a shipload of boatpeople despite signs the united political front it has shown the world is starting to crumble in the face of global outrage.

Up to 460 asylum seekers hunkered down after a fourth night aboard the Norwegian-flagged Tampa, as continuing diplomatic efforts failed to find a swift solution to the high seas standoff.

Prime Minister John Howard said he would argue Jakarta should accept the boatpeople in talks by telephone with Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri late yesterday.

"But in the meantime the government will continue to explore other options as well," he told parliament.

Norway has threatened legal action if an attempt is made to force the Tampa back to sea from its current location, in territorial waters four nautical miles from Australia's Indian Ocean territory of Christmas Island.

But the ship's owners, Wallenius Wilhelmsen, denied claims SAS troops are now controlling the ship, saying its captain Arne Rinnan remained in control and would refuse any order to return to international waters. The ship's crew rescued the refugees from a leaky wooden vessel on Sunday.

The soldiers, who boarded the ship on Wednesday, were in plain view on its decks, guarding against any attempt by asylum seekers to carry out threats to throw themselves into a shark-infested ocean.

The first loads of humanitarian aid were delivered to the ship by soldiers yesterday.

Amnesty International joined mounting criticism of Australia's stand yesterday, calling for urgent action "to avoid a humanitarian tragedy."

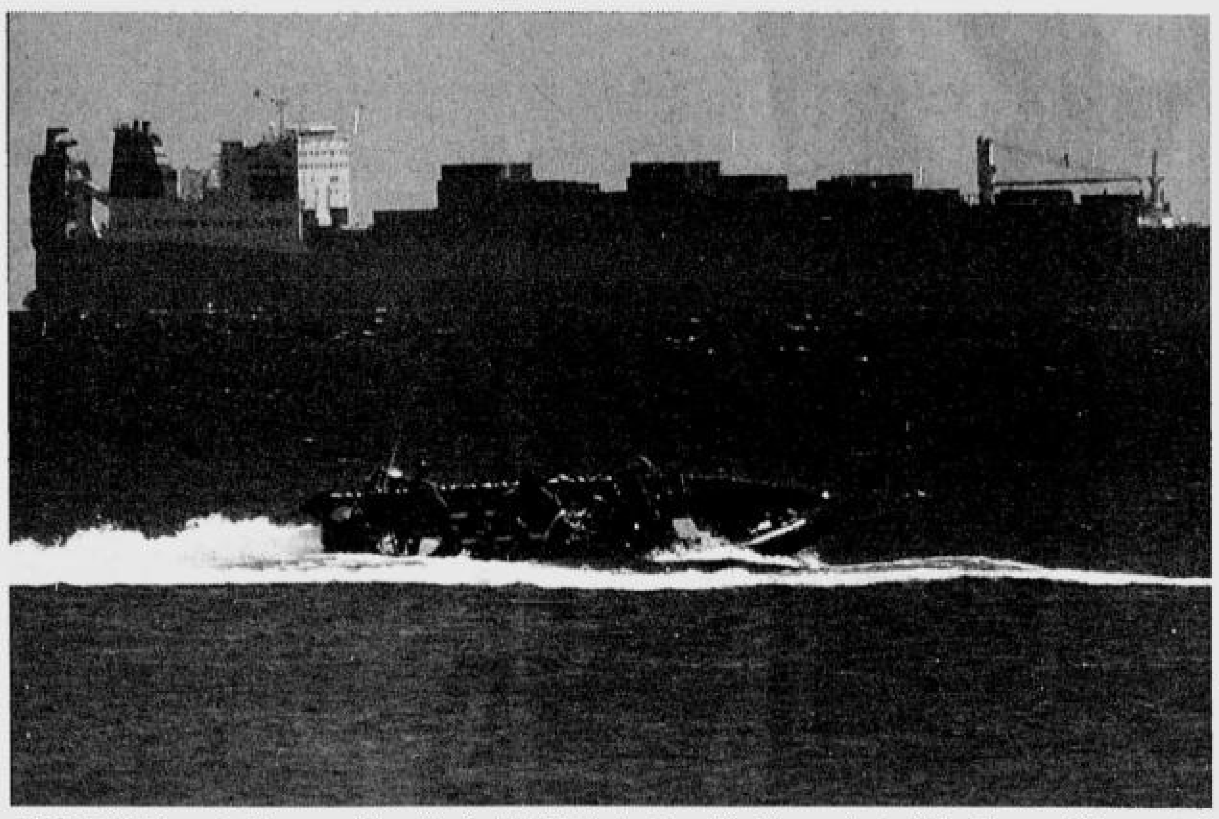
Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) strongly urged Australia to allow the asylum seekers to disembark.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees called for "an international cooperative effort to find solutions and share responsibilities."

Media reaction here has been mixed, but The Australian newspaper yesterday accused Howard of bungling and creating "a full-blown domestic and foreign policy crisis."

"The government's approach has been reactive, uncoordinated and devoid of any long-term strategic direction," the paper said. "It betrays an unwillingness to accept the reality of the global refugee problem."

So far the government had enjoyed the support of the Labor opposition for its hardline refusal to allow the Tampa to berth in Australia. *AFP*



AUSTRALIAN special forces soldiers ride their inflatable boat past the Norwegian freighter Tampa off the coast of Christmas Island Aug. 30. Australia stood its ground on yesterday, saying it would force the cargo ship overflowing with asylum seekers out of its territorial waters. REUTERS

Discovery: Virus kills cancer cells in lab mice

INDIANAPOLIS—Scientists have wiped out tumors in mice using a common virus that apparently tricks cancer cells into self-destructing.

It is too early to know if the approach might work in humans. However, the research sheds light on something scientists have noticed for years: Some viruses harm cancer cells but leave normal, healthy cells unscathed.

The research involves a virus that is believed to be harmless to humans, and a gene called p53 that normally suppresses tumors.

In most cancer patients, the p53 gene is defective. The virus apparently zeroes in on that flaw.

Peter Beard, a professor of virology at the Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research in Epalinges, said his team found that the explanation involves an unusual hairpin-like portion of the virus' DNA.

When a cancer cell encounters the virus, it apparently interprets the hairpin structure as damage to its own DNA. The cell tries to rid itself of the damage and ends up self-destructing.

As part of their research, the Swiss team injected human colon cancer cells into a group of laboratory mice, followed by the virus two days later. Only two of the 12 rodents later formed tumors.

In mice with existing colon cancer tumors, injections of the virus eliminated tumors in six of the 10 rodents.

The findings were reported in yesterday's issue of the journal Nature.

Beard said his team hopes to pinpoint the precise feature on the hairpin structure that sends cancer cells to their death. If they can do that, he said, it may be possible to specially engineer the virus or even develop a drug mimicking its effects. *AP*

India refuses to include caste in racism conference

NEW DELHI—At the end of a network of dusty lanes in Trilokpuri, a suburb on the outskirts of the Indian capital, a scavenger lugs home a plastic bucket of water for her family.

It is dusk and Birum, who uses only one name, and her two daughters have spent the day collecting used plastic bags from rotting waste in the city dumps.

They are filthy and hungry—yet they cannot bathe or cook with the water that comes from the tap in the lane next to their home.

"That's the tap for the upper castes. We are not allowed there," said Birum, 33, matter of factly as she sits on the dirt floor making "chapatti" bread on a coal-burning stove.

Although the water is supplied by New Delhi's municipal authorities, the few public taps in this shantytown that houses nearly 10,000 poor migrants are sharply divided along caste lines. The taps for the lower castes are nearly a kilometer away and the water barely trickles.

Birum is a Dalit, the lowest in the heap in India's 3,000-year-old caste system, a pernicious practice that discriminates against nearly a fourth of the country's billion-plus population.

The caste system was described in Hinduism's ancient sacred text, the Rig Veda, as a social order that was supposed to maintain harmony in society. It divides people into four main castes, but there also are those outside the system, the "untouchables," who now call themselves "dalits," literally "broken people."

Though discrimination based on caste has been outlawed since India's Constitution was adopted in 1950, the practice pervades most corners of Indian society. While admitting efforts to end caste discrimination have not been implemented as rigorously as they should, the Indian government wants to keep the matter out of the international spotlight.

The Indian government is sending an official delegation, including many Dalit members of Parliament, to the weeklong UN World Conference on Racism which opens in Durban, South Africa, this Friday. But it is also trying to keep caste discrimination off the conference agenda.

Unlike apartheid in South Africa, which was a state-sponsored policy, the Indian government insists that it is committed to wiping out caste discrimination. But officials have said a mindset going back 3,000 years cannot be changed overnight.

Ruth Manorama of the National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights disagrees with government assertions that the caste system does not amount to racism. *AP*

Researchers confident AIDS vaccine possible

ATLANTA—The scientists trying to create a vaccine to prevent AIDS suddenly seem optimistic, even bullish, words that have not been heard much in this perennially gloomy field.

For the first time, many researchers appear confident a vaccine is possible.

More than anything else, the monkeys are responsible for the change in attitude. Scientists have long used monkeys to test theories about AIDS treatment and prevention. But in two decades of trying, they could not concoct a vaccine that would safely protect a monkey from dying of AIDS. Until now.

Now there are monkeys like Godot, a handsome, blond, 4-year-old macaque living in the level 2 biohazard containment facility at the Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center on the leafy fringes of Emory University. Just over a year ago, Godot got a big dose of SHIV, an especially nasty lab-made amalgam of HIV and SIV, the human and monkey versions of the AIDS virus. Ordinarily, he would be dead in six to eight months.

Anyone entering Godot's living space must dress head to toe in protective clothing, because SHIV circulates in his bloodstream. But his curious, alert stare at visitors peeking through a window shows he is outwardly unscathed. Godot is infected but otherwise healthy.

Seven months before he was infected, Godot got an experimental new AIDS vaccine, one experts hope will be the model for a shot to control the worldwide epidemic.

Two other variations of the same approach have been tested on monkeys at Harvard Medical School and Merck & Co. with similar results. The Merck vaccine is already in first-stage human testing, and the Yerkes and Harvard versions should start within six months.

Vaccine discovery has been a notoriously discouraging area of AIDS research, clouded by doubts that such a thing is even scientifically thinkable. But over the past year, thanks to this impressive series of monkey experiments, many researchers have grown upbeat.

An AIDS vaccine is still no sure bet, they say. But many believe they are at least on a rational path toward finding one.

The chances of success? "Very good," predicts Dr. Harriet Robinson, who oversaw experiments involving Godot and about 80 other monkeys. Why? "Because of the monkeys," she says. "We are not all that different from monkeys."

How different humans are from monkeys is key and a matter of debate among scientists. Some wonder if these captive animals, given mega-doses of lab-grown viruses, accurately mirror a woman catching HIV from her infected boyfriend or a drug addict shooting up with a tainted needle.

Still, similarities are striking. In both monkey and man, the virus destroys its victims' cells, a crucial branch of the immune defenses. In monkeys, the vaccine seems to blunt this attack. Maybe it will in people, too. *AP*

MONKEYS like these two macaque monkeys are used at the Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center in Lawrenceville, Georgia to test possible AIDS vaccines. REUTERS

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French companies offer insurance vs school bullies

PARIS—Spurred on by reports of brutal schoolyard bullying, several French insurance companies are offering back-to-school packages that reimburse pupils for everything from stolen textbooks to ripped designer clothing.

Property damaged or stolen by other children has joined the list of claims reimbursed by France's school insurance, along with more common mishaps like broken bones and shattered eyeglasses.

"Families came to us and asked us to do something," said Patrick Moreau, an executive with student insurance company MEA, which came up with the concept two years ago.

Until recently, French parents watched news reports about violence in American schools with a mixture of incredulity and relief—school violence just wasn't an issue here. Not anymore. Attacks by children against children have become a serious problem, especially in tough neighborhoods.

Last year, French junior high school students were accused of attempted murder when they threw an 11-year-old over a railing. In another case, a vocational school student claimed three fellow classmates burned him with hot irons and cigarettes. Terrified their children might be hurt, parents shut down several schools last year, barricading the doors.

Though there are no metal detectors in French schools, about 20 Paris-area junior high schools will start the academic year equipped with surveillance cameras. Since last year, police have been posted outside the entrances of some of France's toughest schools.

In most schoolyard shakedowns, bullies threaten or beat up children who resist handing over coveted clothing or jewelry. The Education Ministry says there are 30,000 cases of such theft every year. *AP*

E. Timor holds first polls

DILI, East Timor—Tens of thousands of East Timorese packed polling centers for their first free elections yesterday, two years to the day after their vote to split from Indonesia unleashed a militia orgy of death and destruction.

"Turnout has been heavy everywhere throughout the day, demonstrating the great commitment of the East Timorese people to democracy," said Carlos Valenzuela, chief electoral officer of the United Nations' Independent Electoral Commission.

By 3:30 p.m. about 20 percent of all polling centers reported that most people on their lists had already voted, he said.

Centers were scheduled to close at 4 p.m. But Valenzuela said anyone in line by that time would be allowed to vote and centers would stay open as long as necessary.

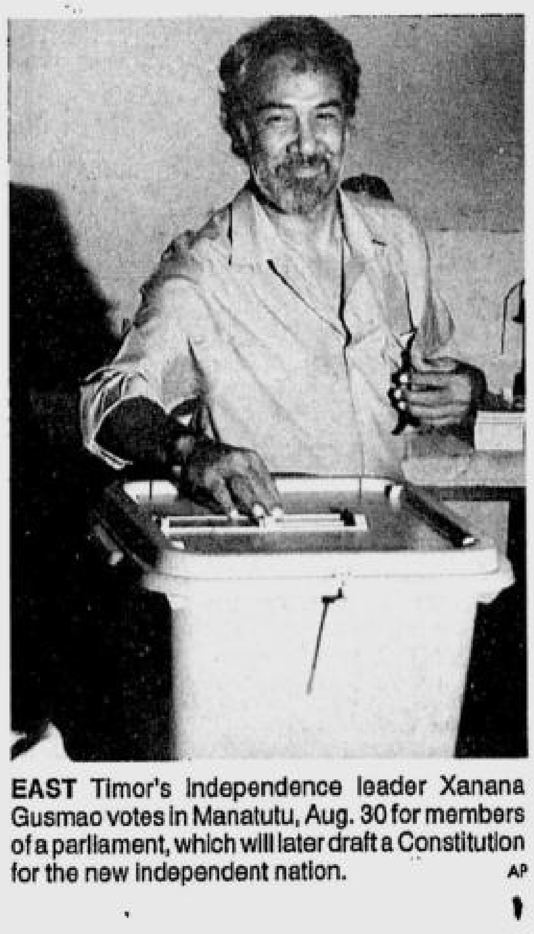
The poll is a milestone on the road to nationhood for the impoverished territory, colonized for four centuries by Portugal and from 1975 by Indonesia.

Savage violence followed the 1999 vote when almost 80 percent of its people opted to end 24 years of brutal Indonesian rule.

Militias backed by Jakarta's military killed at least 600 people, torched whole towns and forced a quarter of a million people over the border into Indonesian-ruled West Timor.

This time up to 425,000 people are electing an 88-member assembly, which will draft a Constitution for the fledgling nation and become its parliament by early December.

"The whole world is once again watching us. We will be the first nation of this millennium," wrote Dili's Bishop Belo, a Nobel peace laureate, in a pastoral letter to voters. *AFP*



EAST Timor's Independence leader Xanana Gusmao votes in Manatutu, Aug. 30 for members of a parliament, which will later draft a Constitution for the new independent nation. AP

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Siquijor gov offers venue for Abu trial

BY ALEX PAL
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—"In the interest of justice," Suiquijor Gov. Orlando Fua Sr. is offering his province as a venue for the trial of the cases involving suspected Abu Sayyaf leaders and members.

"You cannot just execute (the Abu Sayyaf) without any trial," he explained.

Fua said he believes that Siquijor is the ideal place to hold the trial because it is an isolated island and its residents are familiar with each other.

"Should any prisoner escape during the trial, he can be easily identified and apprehended," the governor said.

Fua said he has considered the possibility that Abu Sayyaf members might rescue their jailed companions.

"Should they do that, the possible springboard for the raid will be a Muslim (dominated) area in Mindanao and that area could be Labason, Zamboanga del Norte. But that is more than 200 miles away from Siquijor," he said.

The governor said that the "rescuers" will be caught by authorities because Labason is eight hours travel by sea to Siquijor.

"The next point could be Iligan . . . but that is 80 miles away from the nearest point in Siquijor and travel time is five hours. I don't think they would be stupid to carry out a raid," Fua said.

It may even be possible, Fua said, that the Abu Sayyaf prisoners will befriend Siquijor residents because the people of Siquijor are very friendly.

"The Abu Sayyaf bandits, who will stand trial, may not necessarily be hard core, but just their sympathizers so they could invite closeness with the people of Siquijor," he added.

Fua also said there are only a few Siquijor folk who are rich and can invite the interest of the Abu Sayyaf. But, he added, they can easily be evacuated should they get scared.

The governor said his decision has the support of the province's five town mayors and the police.

There are about 150 policemen in Siquijor, "not counting the policemen from Negros, Cebu, Bohol and Mindanao" who may be of help.

The Supreme Court earlier ordered the transfer of the cases involving the Abu Sayyaf from Zamboanga to Cebu. But the SC later moved the venue to Taguig, Rizal after its ruling was met with strong opposition from local officials and business leaders who viewed the transfer as a threat to Cebu's peace and order situation.

Dumaguete Mayor Agustin Perdices, meanwhile, said he will have to install precautionary measures should the Abu Sayyaf case be moved to Siquijor.

Dumaguete is a jumping point for Siquijor, which shares close links with the province of Negros Oriental.

Siquijor used to be a sub-province of Negros Oriental until the 1970s when it became a separate province through the efforts of then congressman Lamberto Macias.

Macias' son, now Negros Oriental Rep. Emilio Macias II, considered Fua's offer as one big joke.

"We cannot stop (Fua) if he wants to be foolish but I think he's just joking," Macias said.

He said Fua should consult his neighbors before making this offer. "It's just like raising pigs in your backyard. If you don't consult your neighbor and he is offended by the smell, you'll quarrel."

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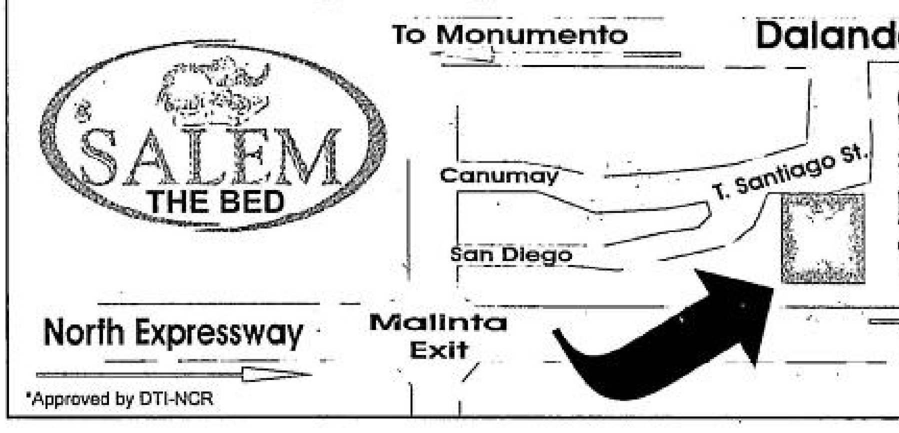

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Nothing wrong in seeing Wong, says PNP exec

BY MALOU GUANZON-APALISOK AND CONNIE FERNANDEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—On the eve of their scheduled appearance at the Senate on Wednesday, suspected drug lord Kim Wong and Chief Supt. Avelino Razon met briefly at the Cebu Country Club Inc. in Barangay Banilad, this city.

But Razon quickly dismissed speculations that he and Wong conferred with each other on what they would testify before the Senate inquiry on the alleged criminal activities of Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

"*Nagkamustahan lang kami.* We did not discuss the Senate inquiry," he told the INQUIRER in an interview over his mobile phone yesterday.

Clad in a striped polo shirt and brown slacks, Wong was loading his golf gear into the trunk of his car Tuesday afternoon when chanced upon by Garry Cabotaje, a reporter of Sun*Star Cebu.

Cabotaje said Wong refused to be interviewed upon the advice of his lawyers. But, he added, the Chinese-Filipino businessman agreed to a casual talk with the reporter.

They were talking for about 15 minutes when Razon dropped by, Cabotaje said. Wong and Razon chatted for about five minutes and Razon left to catch his flight for Manila.

Call from Wong

Razon said it was past 2 p.m. on Tuesday when he received a call from Wong. He said he did not know that Wong was in Cebu.

He dropped by at the golf club about 3:45 p.m. on his way to the Mactan Cebu International Airport to say hello to his friend.

But Razon said he did not stay long because he had a plane to catch. His flight was at 4:30 p.m.

"We just talked for about five minutes. I went there because I have nothing to hide. *Wala namang* contagious disease *si* Kim Wong *para di ko sya puntahan*," he added.

Cabotaje, who was around when Razon and Wong talked, confirmed that the two friends merely exchanged pleasantries.

Wong and Razon have been friends for 10 years. Their friendship started when Razon was still assigned with the Western Police District then headed by Chief Supt. Romeo Odi. It was Odi who introduced him to Wong, Razon said.

Razon maintained he is not aware of Wong's alleged illegal drugs activities. He said he will help arrest Wong if there is evidence linking his friend to the drug trafficking.

Dragged

Razon was dragged to the controversy when former Tourism Secretary Jose Antonio Gonzalez claimed that Wong gave Razon a share in the Mimosa Leisure Estate.

The police general denied the allegation. He said that in 1997, Razon said he swapped his one share of stock in the Riviera Golf and Country in Cavite, with Wong's one share in the Mimosa Leisure Estate, located in the former Clark Airbase, previously operated by Mondragon Leisure and Resorts Corp. of Gonzalez.

The source, who requested anonymity, said Wong is no stranger in Cebu City.

He is a golfer for businessman Jose Go, owner of the Kan-Irag golf course located in the mountain barangays of Cebu City, the source said.

He revealed that Wong has been buying pieces of land in the area for Go's company.

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Rebel integration into AFP ready

BAGUIO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo is set to sign in Kalinga on Saturday the administrative order integrating the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA) into the Armed Forces of the Philippines, regional police officials said.

Chief Supt. Virtus Gil, Cordillera police director, said the President wants to sign the order in Tinglayan, Kalinga, because the CPLA faction that wanted to integrate with the AFP is based there.

Under the CPLA's integration arrangement with the AFP, 264 members will be included as regular soldiers, while about 1,200 CPLA members will be accommodated in the AFP reserve force.

Gil said Ms Macapagal has committed P13 million for the integration but P16 million more is needed for the regular processing of the integrees.

He said the government is recognizing the CPLA factions headed by Kalinga-based James Sawatang, Mayor Mailed Molina of Bucloc, Abra, and Modesto Sagudang of Mt. Province.

But Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Northern Luzon Command chief, said they would review the roster of 264 CPLA applicants representing at least three factions.

"We have to make sure that they have no warrants of arrest and other criminal records," Garcia told reporters here.

Although the integration plan has been ironed out as early as September last year, Garcia said nothing has come out of it because of the turn of political events in the country.

He said the integration of CPLA members into the AFP is part of the *sipat* (peace accord) that slain rebel priest Conrado Balweg, acknowledged CPLA founder, signed with then President Corazon Aquino on Mt. Data in Mt. Province in 1987.

Garcia said before the CPLA members are accepted into the AFP, they would undergo basic training for 11 months.

He said the administrative order calling for the CPLA integration has already been ironed out and needs only the approval of Ms Macapagal.

The militant Cordillera Peoples Alliance, however, called the President's move as a "betrayal of the Cordillera people."

"The President's action is a clear injustice done to the Cordillera people. They should not integrate these criminals into the AFP," Joan Carling, CPA chair, said in a forum here.

Carling said the CPLA merger with the AFP would only lead to increasing atrocities against Cordillera's tribal communities that are affected by militarization.

The CPA officers said instead of working on the integration, the government should push for the investigation of AFP personnel allegedly involved in the killings of Romy Gardo and Ama Daniel Ngayaan, CPLA leaders who were involved in mass organizing, and other members of Cordillera-based progressive groups. ***Frank Cimatu and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country wil be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy	Hi 23° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 23°
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 26°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Chona Galang, PDI Research/08/31/01

EYESORE

GAUDENCIO AUDIE DE LA CRUZ

The pristine surroundings of the Sierra Madre mountain ranges are shattered by continued logging in the area. Heavy trucks such as this caught carrying newly cut logs from the mountain tread the otherwise tranquil forests.

Flash floods hit town in Sarangani

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—About P1.4 million worth of agricultural crops, infrastructure projects and property were damaged when flash floods hit the coastal town of Maasim, Sarangani early Monday.

The flash floods, according to a report by the municipal social welfare and development office, displaced 64 families with 243 dependents from Barangays Bale, Colon and Poblacion.

Officials said heavy rains in the balding mountains of the town triggered the flood.

Mayor Aniceto Lopez said most of those affected were living along the riverbanks.

He said the houses of the victims were washed away by rampaging waters.

On Tuesday afternoon, Gov. Miguel Escobar visited the area affected by the flash floods and decided that the victims should be relocated to avoid being displaced by future floods.

As of press time, the provincial engineer's office is already preparing to repair the damaged portion of a provincial road in Barangay Bale. ***Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Fund scam found in quarry income

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Irregularities in fund use during the term of former Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles delayed the release of quarry revenue shares, averaging P2 million monthly, to local governments in Pampanga and Tarlac.

A special audit completed last July by the Commission on Audit showed that Cerilles drew from the quarry revenues like it was a "bottomless pit," according to Edgardo Tan, finance chief of the Natural Resources Development Corp.

Cerilles, on the strength of Proclamation 66 issued by former President Joseph Estrada, ordered the NRDC, the corporate arm of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, to oversee starting February 1999 the sand industry previously managed by Pampanga and Tarlac officials.

From the P300 levy for every truckload of sand, the NRDC collected at least P150.448 million in 1999. Last year, it collected P137.577 million.

Cerilles had denied irregularities in the collection and management of quarry taxes collected by the NRDC, which he heads.

But Tan said a COA special audit team listed "not good findings" on how the bulk of the funds were used. DENR employees, he said, requested the audit.

Among these include the diversion of quarry revenues for the renovation or construction of buildings at the DENR national office in Quezon City, he said.

The COA, he added, had ordered a stop to the construction activities.

Tan said Cerilles also spent P44 million for the rehabilitation of the Mt. Arayat National Park in Arayat, Pampanga, which was not a lahar-affected town.

In contrast, the lahar-devastated town of Bacolor received only P14 million for the construction of its municipal hall, it was learned.

Under the NRDC policy, the quarry revenues should be ploughed back to local governments that in June 1991 suffered the brunt of Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions and later began recovery through the sand that the volcano spewed out, Tan said.

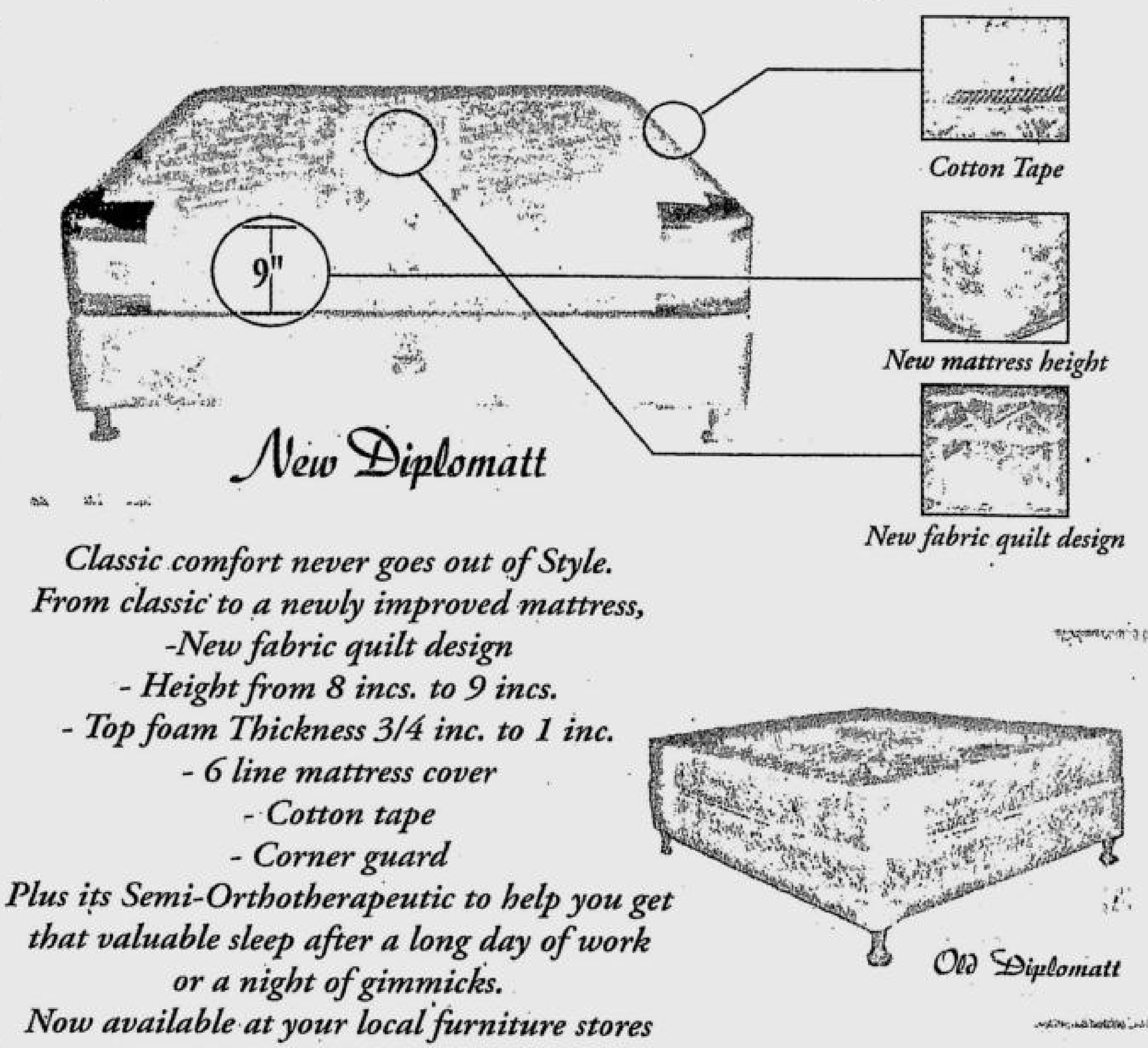
Local governments had also suffered delay in the releases of revenue shares because in January, at the height of the juetengate scandal, more than P10 million was taken from the NRDC office.

Tan declined to identify the suspects but said the National Bureau of Investigation was still investigating the incident.

During the term of Cerilles, Tan said the NRDC also funded the projects of congressmen whom he declined to identify.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

The New Salem Diplomatt



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MEMBER: PANA TRUTH IN ADVERTISING

NPAs claim slaying of Mindoro cop

CALAPAN CITY—The New People's Army (NPA) on Mindoro Island has claimed responsibility for the killing early Wednesday of a police officer who was allegedly responsible for the killing of a ranking rebel leader in 1987.

SPO4 Raymundo Platon, an investigator at the Occidental Mindoro police headquarters in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, identified the slain officer as Senior Supt. Winston Ebersole, Occidental Mindoro assistant provincial police director for operations.

Victor Rivero, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front (NDF)-Mindoro and the Lucio de Guzman Command of the NPA in Mindoro, said Ebersole was "punished for his long list of crimes against the revolutionary movement and the people of Occidental Mindoro."

In a two-page statement distributed here, the rebels' spokesperson said Ebersole was responsible for the torture and killing of Lucio de Guzman in November 1987.

Fallen guerrilla

INQUIRER sources said De Guzman, after whom the current NPA group in Mindoro was named, was the secretary of the Mindoro Island Party Committee when he was arrested and killed by Ebersole's unit of the then 268th Philippine Constabulary (PC) based in San Jose town.

Rivero claimed that Ebersole was also involved in the summary execution of Arnel Mendoza, a student leader from this city, who remains missing until this day.

He said that Mendoza was thrown into the sea from a military helicopter in 1987.

The NPA official also linked Ebersole to vigilante groups as well as gun-for-hires, robbery and hold-up and gunrunning syndicates in Occidental Mindoro.

Platon said Ebersole was shot dead by two unidentified gunmen as he was checking on his jeep around 8:15 a.m. Wednesday in front of their house in Barangay Labangan, Poblacion San Jose.

Fatal shot

He said Ebersole was hit in the head and the neck.

After the police official fell down, he was shot in the chest once to ensure he was dead.

Platon said the two suspects commandeered a tricycle where two other unidentified suspects joined them. They then fled toward Barangay Magbay, also in San Jose.

Platon said the local police force immediately put up checkpoints but the suspects apparently eluded them.

The suspects' getaway tricycle was later found abandoned in a secluded area in Magbay.

"He was a low-profile officer. But he was kind and helpful. He performed well during his stint at the police," said Platon of the fallen officer. "The whole PNP in Mindoro is in mourning."

He added that after Ebersole's stint in Mindanao, the police officer built his career in Occidental Mindoro where he served as company commander of the defunct PC and later police chief of San Jose and Mamburao towns.

"He was responsible for the surrender of many rebels in the province during his term," the police officer added.

Joel Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

ROUNDUP

Medical mission

ISABELA CITY, Basilan—Some 1,000 Basilan residents availed themselves of free medical services courtesy of the 5-day joint humanitarian medical mission launched by the AFP Reserve Command (Arescom) and the Manila Rotary Club at the provincial health office here. Col. Godofredo Rabara of the Arescom said the residents warmly received the medical mission, which ended on Aug. 28. Some of the patients came from Sumisip, Lamitan, Maluso and Tuburan towns, which are among the poorest areas of Basilan.

Rabara said they are looking into the possibility of bringing back the mission.

Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau

When looks kill

DAVAO CITY—A *durian* vendor was shot dead early Tuesday here because the suspect did not like the way he looked. Police said Allan Paloma, 26, of Ecoland Subdivision, died of gunshot wounds while being treated at the Davao Medical Center. Cpl. Ronald Calion of the 40th Infantry Battalion shot Paloma, some 20 meters away from the Sta. Ana police station on Quezon Boulevard. Calion was arrested shortly after the shooting. He is being held in detention while charges are being prepared against him.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

MNLF member slain

COTABATO CITY—Heavily armed men on Saturday stormed a house in Buldon, Maguindanao, killing a Moro National Liberation Front member integrated into the military service and wounding three of his relatives, the military said. Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division on Monday said Pfc. Nasrodin Lincop, assigned with the 43rd Infantry Battalion, died at the first volley of fire from the unidentified attackers who struck at 9 a.m. in Barangay Ampuan. Three of Lincop's relatives—Bao Dimasindil, Sainodin and Akmad, both surnamed Lincop, were rushed to the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center here for treatment of gunshot wounds.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Farm-to-market roads

MAGSAYSAY, Misamis Oriental—Some P9 million worth of farm-to-market roads were turned over to two barangays here by the Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP) which is being funded by the World Bank. A farmer beneficiary said the road projects were a big help to them. "We used to walk and carry our produce then. There was even an incident when (a person) died while carrying his produce. He slipped and hit the ground head first," the farmer said in the vernacular.

Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Shabu seized

DAVAO CITY—Some P1.3 million worth of shabu were seized after agents of the Special Task Group-Mindanao Area Office (Stag-MAO) conducted simultaneous raids in Barangay Tacub, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur Tuesday evening. Supt. Alex Paul Monteagudo, Stag-MAO chief, said three suspected pushers were also arrested during the raid. The suspects, who also yielded handguns, were identified as Johnny Jul, 33, the alleged leader of the group; his brother Sayin, 27; and Edna Mamat, 42, all residents of the village. Monteagudo said the group gets its supply from Cotabato City.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

3 inmates bolt jail

DAVAO CITY—Three inmates bolted the Digos City jail by passing through a dilapidated portion of their cell's ceiling. The prisoners, jailed for robbery, were identified as Benjie Labaja, 26; Wilfredo Diretso, 16; Modesto Velasco, 30, all of Guihing, Hagonoy, Davao del Sur. Police said the suspects took advantage of the strong rains. The jail guard, identified only as SPO1 Evangelista, claimed he discovered the jailbreak after conducting a routine check around 3 a.m.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Drug drop-off points

LUCENA CITY—Quezon Gov. Wilfrido Enverga said there are now nine drop-off points of illegal drugs in different parts of Quezon's coastal areas. Enverga made the disclosure during his recent state of the province address before members of the provincial council. He reported that 191 drug pushers and users were arrested during 133 anti-illegal drug operations conducted by the Quezon police. He said police also seized 260 grams of shabu.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

MILF corrects self; 19 reported dead are alive

ISABELA CITY, Basilan—The 19 civilian residents of a village in Sumisip, Basilan who were reported killed in an Army attack are actually well and alive, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front admitted yesterday.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, admitted that they erred in saying that the civilians, 14 of them minors, were massacred.

He said there was confusion in the MILF after the civilians could not be located following a military raid in Barangay Baiwas Monday morning.

Kabalu also clarified that the military involved in the attack was the 3rd Marine Battalion and not the 10th Infantry Battalion.

"But I received the latest report on the attack indicating that the civilians actually went to a safer area," he said.

He said the MILF was also informed that the civilians would be turned over to the social welfare office in Isabela for medical tests.

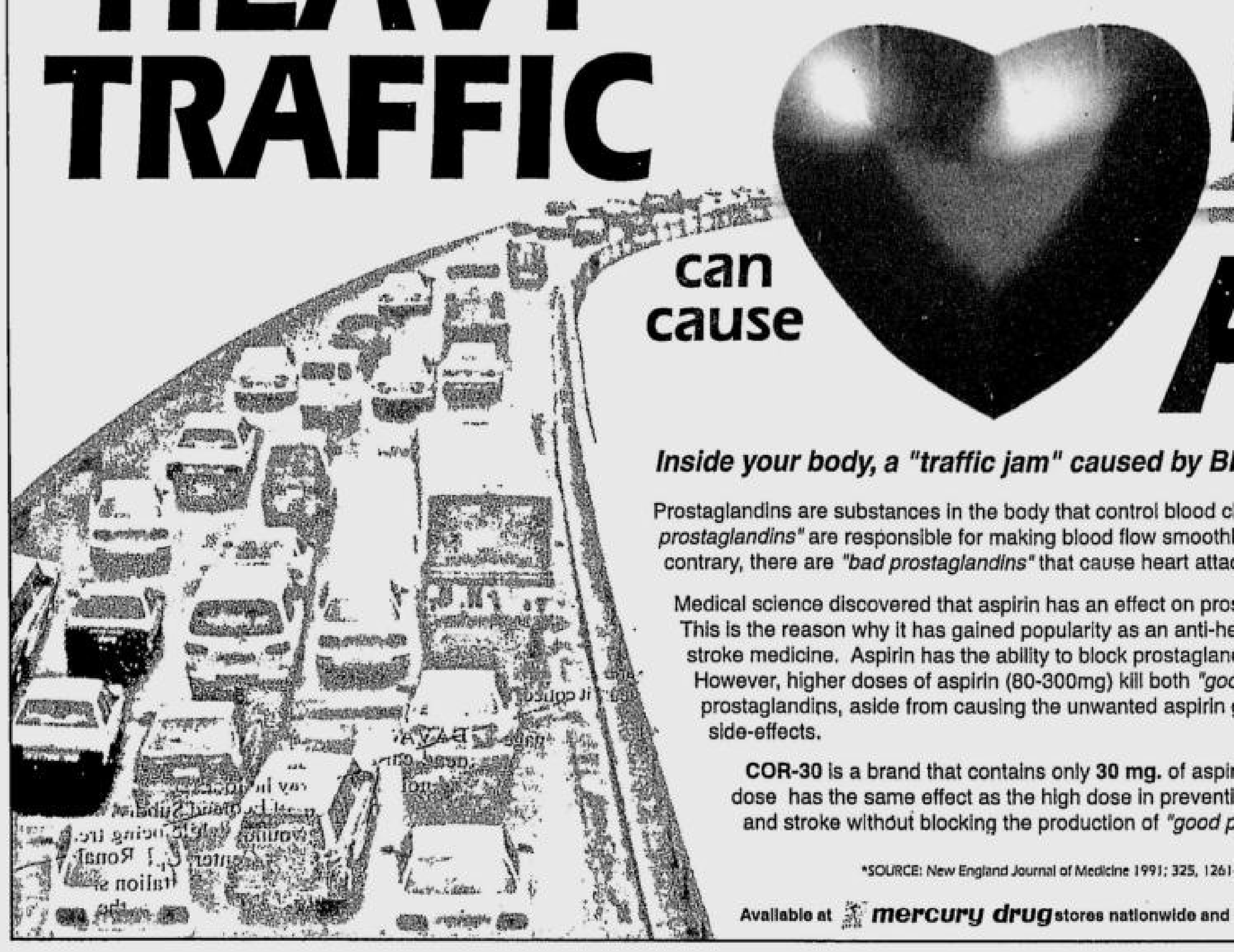
Jun Fronda, a cameraman for GMA-7, said the 19 civilians sought refuge in a Marine outpost during an anti-Abu Sayyaf operation in the village.

"We were there. Actually we even took footage of the Marines rescuing 19 evacuees. In fact, we were able to interview them," Fronda said.

But while admitting that there was a mix-up in the facts that reached him, Kabalu insisted that the Aug. 22 attack in Barangays Pamatsakin and Irili occurred.

"An MILF member died when elements of the 10th Infantry Battalion attacked the position of the Internal Security Force in the guise of pursuing Abu Sayyaf members," Kabalu said.

He said the MILF was preparing to file a protest against the military for violating a ceasefire agreement signed in Kuala Lumpur on Aug. 7. ***Julie Alipala-Inot with a report from Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



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*SOURCE: New England Journal of Medicine 1991; 325, 1261-6

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‘Don’t destroy PNP’

(From page A1)

former PNP chief and now Sen. Panfilo Lacson and a number of his associates, since the press had previously aired the bulk of Ong’s claims.

Interestingly, no less than Malacañang came to Ong’s defense, as presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao explained that the former agent was not referring to the present PNP leadership when she testified about the alleged drug trafficking.

Ong, a former “asset” and Chinese translator with the now defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, told senators that in 1998 she participated in the Athena project, an operation to crack into a Hong Kong triad drug deals allegedly stage-managed by cops who were supposed to eradicate the problem.

“We would like to clarify... (that) it’s not the existing PNP organization that Mary Ong is accusing. The organization she was accusing was the PNP under a previous leadership,” Tiglao said.

Asked if the allegations could be part of an attempt to weaken government institutions, Tiglao disagreed.

“My personal observation is that rather than destroying the institutions, it is strengthening the institutions (through) criticism,” he said, speaking in Taglish.

“The President has full confidence in the overall integrity and professionalism of the PNP,” he stressed.

Although Mendoza agreed that “Ong may have been referring to circumstances that transpired prior to my assumption as PNP chief,” he said he believed that “the PNP as an institution should be insulated from such allegations that concern only a handful of officers and personnel.”

On Wednesday, Ong implicated, among others, former PNP Narcotics Group head Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop, Supt. Francisco Villaroman and Supt. John Campos, Ong’s former live-in partner—all of whom have since angrily denied her accusations.

Condominium

Lacson yesterday claimed that Ong’s alleged handlers—former PNP chief Roberto Lastimoso and Reynaldo Berroya—gave her a condominium in exchange for doing a hatchet job on the senator. He said the condominium is located in the Eisenhower building in Greenhills.

Mendoza said that Ong’s “very sweeping accusation undermines the entire national police institution and sets back whatever gains we have achieved so far in rebuilding a publicly acceptable image and reputation.”

The officers and men of the PNP “are disappointed by the indiscriminate and very damaging allegations,” Mendoza said.

He said he was concerned that Ong’s testimony could affect not only the morale of the rank and file but also “favorable public esteem towards the police.”

According to Mendoza, the PNP has been at the forefront of the war against illegal drugs and its drug busts and arrests of traffickers and dealers were “solid proof of our resolve to fight the drug menace.”

‘Good officers’

Two senior police officials based in Cebu City echoed Mendoza’s sentiments, expressing disbelief at the idea that the drug trafficking operation was run by some of the country’s top PNP officers.

Chief Supt. Avelino Razon, police director for Central Visayas, said Ong should substantiate her charges because she had indicted the entire anti-Narcotics Command.

Supt. Vicente Loot, chief of the Regional Anti-Narcotics Group in Central Visayas, said Ong’s allegations would demoralize his men in their campaign against illegal drugs.

Razon said he knew the officials implicated by Ong, namely Acop, Villaroman and Campos.

He described them as “good police officers” who were “sincere in the service.”

“I find Ong’s allegations unbelievable. I know General Acop. He is a very good police officer and I know that Acop will never let his record in the service be tarnished,” Razon said in Filipino.

He said he met Acop when both were still students at the Philippine Military Academy. They were also together in the Philippine Constabulary.

Villaroman was a colleague at the Western Police District while Razon met Campos when both were assigned to the police Narcotics Group, Razon said.

Loot also dismissed Ong’s allegations as incredible, claiming that if such a crime had occurred in Camp Crame, he would have known about it because some of the Narcom agents would eventually complain.

Loot said he had been working with the Narcotics Group since 1999, when it was still headed by Narcom chief Reynaldo Gonzalez, who replaced Acop. Ong had alleged that the illegal activities continued under Gonzalez’s administration.

In Malacañang, Tiglao attempted to soothe the PNP’s ruffled feathers.

“We’re not saying that that the entire PNP organization has been cleared of its scalawags, but the President is confident that the major reforms, the major changes in leadership in different directorates have already been achieved,” he told reporters.

“Mendoza has been quite efficient in gradually raising the professional standards of the PNP,” Tiglao said.

Two sides

For its part, the opposition Partido ng Masang Pilipino warned the Senate against “swallowing statements” of witnesses presented by military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus to pin down Lacson.

But militant groups again urged government authorities to immediately file criminal charges against Lacson and place him behind bars.

The fisherfolk group Pamalakaya said police officials implicated in the alleged multibillion-peso drug trading should also be charged.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno made a similar call, while urging the Senate to widen the scope of its investigation to include the whole Philippine National Police and look into the extent of criminal activities within the police hierarchy.

Ong had said a Chinese triad shipped in thousands of kilos of illegal drugs, which police officials sold to suspected Chinese drug lords detained at Camp Crame.

Ong claimed that during her stint as an undercover agent, the police were responsible for a drug trade worth P96 billion a year.

She said P24 billion went back to the triad, while the remaining P72 billion allegedly went to the pockets of the other police officials involved.

“P96 billion a year is a lot of money, Pamalakaya chair Rodolfo Sambajon said.

“Power-starved politicians and certified human rights violators like Ping Lacson could buy practically everything, not only the INQUIRER and major TV stations like the GMA-7 and ABS-CBN 2, to save himself from this mess and pursue his future political plans,” he added.

Whom to trust?

In a statement, Partido ng Masang Pilipino spokesperson Jesus Crispin Remulla called Corpus’ witnesses “dubious characters” engaged in a smear campaign against members of the opposition.

But KMU chair and now Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran lambasted Lacson and his allies for trying to discredit Ong.

He belittled Lacson’s arguments that the witnesses against him were all “estapador” or charged with estafa.

“He’s trying to show that their word cannot be trusted. But between a person whose checks bounce, and a person who’s being accused of money laundering, drug-trafficking, wire-tapping—not to mention countless kidnappings and multiple murder—whose word can you trust more?” Beltran asked.

“The Senate should pay heed to the adage that where there’s smoke, there’s fire. In this case, there’s a lot of smoke, and it’s a bonfire that’s raging,” he said.

Ong “has documents and other physical evidence to prove it. Ong’s allegations against Lacson and his henchmen have been consistent, and this adds credibility to her story,” Beltran said. ***With a report from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez***

Lacson: Is Corpus status legal?

(From page A1)

of the AFP to investigate Lacson’s alleged illegal activities.

Lacson’s move drew immediate reaction from Sen. Joker Arroyo who, it turned out, signed Corpus’ commission papers in his capacity as executive secretary of then President Corazon Aquino.

Arroyo, who chairs the blue ribbon committee, also virtually lectured his colleagues on procedure, specifically that the defense chief should be questioned only on “policy matters,” not the operational aspects of his department.

Lacson and Honasan had earlier used up more than an hour grilling Reyes on Isafp operations and the recent “escape” of witness Angelo “Ador” Mawanay from Senate detention.

Asked for comment later in the day, Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for President Macapagal-Arroyo, said “it’s kind of strange that the legitimacy of Colonel Corpus, who has been airing these charges, is being questioned.”

“The more appropriate way would be to answer the actual allegations first, rather than impugn the personal qualifications of the accuser,” he said, adding:

“This tactic is called *ad hominem*... You don’t address the issues, (but) the quality of the accuser.”

Tiglao also said that if Corpus’ commission were found illegal, “it’s up to the Senate to recommend a court case or any move to take (it) out.”

“But right now, the President still has full confidence in Colonel Corpus’ integrity, the legality of his commission, and his performance,” Tiglao said.

Taking the floor after Honasan, Lacson asked whether Reyes had “dug” into Corpus’ record, specifically his commissioning or re-entry into the AFP as a reserve lieutenant colonel in 1986.

Lacson pointed out that while “only the President is authorized to commission” Army officers, Corpus was commissioned through a mere “transmittal letter” issued by Arroyo.

“There was no way he could have been commissioned because he has not received an absolute pardon,” Lacson said, adding that the power to pardon could not be delegated.

He then presented letters from then Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile and then AFP Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos saying that for Corpus’ commission to be legal, he should first be extended a “presidential absolute pardon” in two criminal cases.

The cases involved the raid of the Philippine Military Academy armory by the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People’s Army on Dec. 23, 1970, and the rebellion charges against CPP founding chair Jose Ma. Sison and 22 other respondents, including Corpus.

‘Illegitimate officer’

Lacson said there was “an indefinite temporary restraining order still pending with the Supreme Court” on the rebellion charges.

“There’s no way that Colonel Corpus would receive an absolute pardon” because of that pending case, the senator said, adding that this would make Corpus “an illegitimate officer.”

But Reyes said that when the President approved a commission, “that is already an implied pardon.”

Besides, he said, he had been “reliably informed” that Corpus was “in fact amnestied.”

“The amnesty is a general amnesty that covers all previous offenses of a former rebel. So this erases from memory all of his crimes, thus making him eligible for reserve commission,” Reyes said.

Lacson pointed out that amnesty was different from pardon, to which Reyes said pardon was given only when there was a conviction.

“In the case of Colonel Corpus, he was pronounced guilty by a military tribunal, which sentenced him to death. Such a judgment is still subject to review and final approval by the President, before which there is no final conviction,” Reyes said. “So he is not eligible for pardon... only for amnesty.”

Reyes also said then President Ferdinand Marcos never approved the conviction of Corpus, who was charged along with the ex-Senator Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino Jr. and then NPA chief Bernabe “Dante” Buscayno.

Later, Lacson told reporters that he was taking the case to court.

The senator said that if Corpus were proven to be an “illegitimate officer” of the AFP, “then all acts done in his position are illegal and should be discarded.”

‘Good for Ninoy’

When Arroyo took the floor, he said he knew Corpus’ case well as he was among the lawyers of the defendants sentenced to die by the then Military Commission No. 2.

“What was good for Ninoy should be good for Corpus and should be good for Dante,” he said.

Arroyo also said the signing of Corpus’ commission order was a valid act.

“Until the President of the Philippines disowns his executive secretary, that stands as an order of the President. That’s what an executive secretary is for,” Arroyo said.

“An executive secretary is not worth his balls if he cannot make a letter like this,” he said.

According to Arroyo, Corpus may have been pardoned in 1986.

He noted that Lacson also had a pending civil case at the Supreme Court for the torture of a certain Aberca and others in 1984.

He said that among Lacson’s co-accused were Gen. Fabian Ver and former Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo, both now deceased, and that the appeals court had ruled that Lacson should pay damages.

Arroyo pointed out that like Corpus, Lacson could also say that there had been no final judgment on the case.

“Lacson can always say that he had never been convicted of anything, or sentenced, but that case involves torture,” Arroyo said. “That’s on the record, and I didn’t want to bring that up until he brought up this matter.”

In his testimony, Reyes defended Corpus’ acts. “If the Isafp is guilty of any crime, it’s the crime of taking its job seriously,” he said.

At one point, Sen. Vicente Sotto rose to question Arroyo’s claim that Lacson and Honasan had questioned the Isafp’s activities.

Sotto said that the two senators were merely questioning the leak of the Isafp report on Lacson to the media, not the investigation itself, and that Arroyo’s claim would put the integrity of the Senate in question.

Arroyo explained that what he actually said was the two were pursuing that “line of questioning.”

Sotto demanded that the transcripts be produced. The senators then agreed to resume discussion on the matter at the resumption of the Senate hearings on Lacson on Monday.

Disadvantage

Arroyo later told reporters that Lacson should consider attending the Monday hearing in view of the “detailed” testimony of witness Mary Ong alias Rosebud last Wednesday.

He said it was to Lacson’s disadvantage to continue to be absent at the hearings.

“I think he should ask his lawyer whether he can risk letting (Ong’s) testimony go unanswered,” Arroyo said. “Now he will be forced to refute that.”

Besides, Arroyo said, Lacson’s decision not to attend the past three hearings or the one on Monday would put the Senate public order, national defense and blue ribbon committees “on the spot” when they make their report and recommendations later.

Arroyo said that after Ong’s testimony on drug trafficking, the committees would proceed to hear the issue of money laundering, which he described as “the fruits of the crime.”

He said he was not inclined to ask Mawanay to appear at the next hearing as the witness’ testimony was “going every which way.” ***With a report from Martin P. Marfil***

John, the spy who . . .

(From page A1)

tent of his involvement with Ong, who worked with him in the 90s to infiltrate the Hong Kong triads.

“There was no love in the relationship,” Campos answered, his expression hard and cold.

Asked whether it was true that they had lived together, he said no with a straight face.

A seemingly contemptuous Campos, one of several police officers implicated by Ong in big-time drug trafficking, went on to say he had merely “used” her as an agent to crack into an international narcotics ring run by the triads.

He portrayed Ong as psychologically unstable and obsessive in her attraction to him, and their relationship as one-sided on her part.

The rejection was too much even for a woman with the nerves of steel needed to work undercover among the triads.

“*Napaka-baboy naman niya* (He’s such a pig),” Ong said yesterday of the spy who bagged her heart.

“If you are an officer and a gentleman, would you say that on TV? Would you just throw away five years?” she asked.

Interviewed by Tiangco immediately after Campos, who is 10 years Rosebud’s junior, Ong said that she had lived as a wife to him for years.

“My children treated him as their father,” she said, her tears flowing—but her makeup still intact.

In earlier interviews, she said she met Campos in 1993, through a common friend who was also her “handler” as a civilian agent. According to Ong, she and John fell in love amid their cloak-and-dagger activities in Hong Kong. Their relationship, she said, started to sour after five years.

In a sack

Shaking, Ong recalled yesterday how she was almost killed three years ago because of Campos’ alleged involvement in the drug trade.

According to her, on May 24, 1998, she was kidnapped by armed men led by Martin Soriano, a former agent of the National Bureau of Investigation, in what appeared to be a “turf war” between his group and that of Campos and associates.

Ong said she was supposed to collect money for a delivery of *shabu* (methamphetamine hydrochloride) in Quezon City when she was abducted.

“I was blindfolded and beaten up. I thought I was good as dead,” Ong said, shaking at the recollection.

When Soriano allegedly interrogated her, Ong told him that she was an “asset” of the Philippine National Police-Narcotics Group.

“I’m with the police,” Ong said she told Soriano.

He allegedly replied: “We’re not like the NarcGroup which kills people just like that.”

Campos, she said, somehow found out that she was in Soriano’s hands, and he called up the former NBI agent.

“She’s ours,” Campos allegedly told Soriano, warning him of an “all-out war” if Ong was not released.

“They put me in a sack and dumped me somewhere in San Mateo (in Rizal). If you only knew the humiliation I underwent,” Ong said.

‘Monsters’

She said the lure of big money had drawn Campos and his associates, including their supposed leader, then PNP chief and now Sen. Panfilo Lacson, away from the call of duty into mainstream drug trafficking.

“This is a person who no longer has a conscience,” Ong said of Campos.

“They are monsters, the products of evil,” she said, describing Campos’ group.

“I’m appealing to decent officers and men in the PNP—if you know something about this group, please come out,” Ong said.

The ex-agent said she was not affected by claims made by Campos’ former superior Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop that she was actually a mole sent by a Hong Kong triad to destroy the PNP by sowing intrigue.

“How could that be? The more they talk against me, the more they will fall into their own trap,” Ong said.

She claimed that if she had she not taken precautions, she would probably be dead by now.

She said she closeted herself in a house and hardly went out. “They didn’t have the chance the terminate me,” Ong said.

‘I did not pay a single centavo’

(From page A1)

on Nacorda, saying the priest should also be investigated.

He made the statement shortly after Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, in an emotional speech before the defense and justice committees, emphatically denied that he and fellow military officials allowed the escape of the Abu Sayyaf bandits in exchange for money.

“God knows I will never accept blood money,” Dominguez, former 1st Division commander, said in a breaking voice. “Not all the money the ASG possesses can match the honor, fame, goodwill, career opportunities... if we destroy the Abu Sayyaf.”

To reporters after the hearing, Reyes said that he called on the Senate to investigate Nacorda because it was the “inherent right” of any person to face his accusers.

He stressed that the concerned military officials do not know what they are being accused of exactly.

Never again

Accompanied by counsel Marlon Cruz, Romero told reporters as he left the building that he would not return to the hearing if summoned again.

Committee chair Rep. Prospero Pichay began the proceedings by saying the panel had obtained testimonies from two witnesses—one of them recalling events “inside the hospital”—claiming that a P3-million ransom was paid for Romero’s freedom.

One witness, Pichay said, even claimed that during the military siege on the Lamitan hospital, an ASG member yelled out Romero’s name and that of his female companion Rizz[illegible] Santos Rodriguez and said in Filipino: “You [illegible] out. Say you were able to escape. Bring that child.”

The child referred to was 8-year-old RJ Recio, who was separated from his parents and other Dos Palmas hostages during the hospital siege.

Romero quickly retorted: “That is highly improbable. It’s absolutely not true. I have not paid a single centavo.”

A ransom payment under such circumstances was impossible, he said, mainly because his family did not know where he was and had not received any communication from the ASG during his captivity.

He admitted under questioning by Iloilo Rep Rolex Suplico, however, that one of his sons contacted former Secretary Robert Aventajado, hostage negotiator of the Estrada administration, “for advice.” He did not elaborate. Aventajado was once accused of pocketing part of the ransom money allegedly delivered to the Abu Sayyaf during last year’s Sipadan hostage crisis.

“If I were released (after ransom was paid) I could have been freed ahead of time, not during a firefight,” Romero said.

As a visual aid, Romero played back a video tape showing him, Rodriguez and Recio dashing out of the hospital and into the safety of the military bunker put up about 500 meters from the hospital.

Replying to a question from Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, Romero admitted that one of his sons obtained the tape from the military. Other congressmen wondered aloud why the footage already seemed [illegible]oroughly edited.

Fateful day

In his statement read at the Senate, Dominguez said Nacorda has no personal knowledge of the events that transpired in Lamitan on that fateful day because “he was 1 kilometer away, hiding in the church.”

Noting that the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines was now looking more closely into Nacorda’s allegations, Dominguez asked the CBCP to investigate the circumstances in which the priest was able to survive his ordeal with the Abu Sayyaf when his military bodyguard did not.

Coming on the heels of the Lamitan hearing the Senate conducted last week, which included an executive session where Nacorda and 20 witnesses testified, the hearing yesterday pushed defense committee chair Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. to say the “picture is getting clear.”

Magsaysay said the testimonies given by the military officers involved showed there were no effective communication and coordination between the forces there, thus explaining the “operational lapses.” He recounted that military officers admitted to relying on “hearsay” or unofficial intelligence sources in making decisions.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon decried as “criminal negligence” the order deploying the Army Scout Rangers in the area, in what was likely to be a combat situation, when some of them were not armed. Reyes defended the military officers, saying the situation was “nebulous” then and that the main goal was to rush the troops to the area.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan said he believed Dominguez, and noted a failure of coordination between the police and military.

Riveting testimony

In Congress, Romero’s testimony provided riveting details of the ordeal of the hostages.

He said he and the three American hostages sat on boxes of rockets as the hostage-laden speedboat flew over rough seas, the roar of the engines failing to cover the screams of the women and children.

The captives were burnt by the tropical sun, then savaged by mosquitoes as they stumbled blindly, many in slippers, through the ink-black jungle. They repeatedly ducked and cringed in the face of incoming fire in the first week of their abduction, underfed and exhausted.

Romero said his abduction started with a booted kick on his hut door as the bandits raided the Dos Palmas Resort just after dawn on May 27.

They loaded three resort workers and 17 tourists into their boat.

Romero said they sped at more than 60 kilometers an hour southward for 11 hours, the women and children screaming as the speedboat pounded waves.

Military patrol boats failed to keep up.

Romero said they were then transferred to a large fishing boat and crammed in the smoky engine room, barely able to breathe.

For three days, he said, the boat looked for a landing place far from soldiers until arriving at night in Basilan island.

“We had no light and were only wearing slippers and the children kept on slipping,” he said. “When we reached a coconut-frond hut, we slept there but only (for) a few hours because there were so many mosquitoes and centipedes.”

The next night, he said, they were allowed to bathe in a river. A military patrol spotted the hostages and opened fire on the Abu Sayyaf guards.

One guerrilla was hit in the buttocks before they broke contact and fled with the hostages, he said. At that time, three of the hostages, the resort cooks and a security guard, disappeared from the group.

Soldiers found the beheaded bodies of two of them days later. The third, with a gash on the side of his face, told soldiers he ran to freedom as his captors fell on him with machetes, meaning to behead him too before the Lamitan raid.

Hospital siege

On June 2, the 70 or so bandits with the hostages were quickly surrounded and besieged by as many as 1,000 soldiers backed by rocket-firing helicopters and armored vehicles.

“The whole building was shaking, shattering glass panes,” Romero said.

Romero said he dressed in patients’ pajamas and ran out of the hospital, with Rodriguez and Recio, as his captors were distracted, looking in the direction of the church.

In recounting his escape, Romero even drew on a white board a crude map of the hospital, the adjacent church, and the immediate street where the military had taken positions.

By the time the military had started bombing the hospital on the morning of June 2, ASG leader Abu Sabaya had the hostages tied by rope together by the wrists in preparation for an escape to the neighboring church.

Romero managed to extricate himself. Rodriguez, who was by then tied next to him, was able to untangle the rope binding her, too. “The rest of the hostages were ducking on the floor.”

RJ was able to join them because, unlike the rest of the hostages, he was left unbound.

The three of them “slid” undetected to one of the patients’ rooms and crawled under one of the three hospital beds inside. There were an undetermined number of people also in the room, all hiding under the beds.

Romero further claimed that he was able to pull off a camouflage trick: while under the bed, he was able to grab one of the patient’s pajamas, put it on, and took off his own shirt.

Romero claimed an ASG member then entered the room and angrily asked the people under the bed, “Where are the ones who escaped?” got no response and left.

Akbar implicated

At the House hearing, a civilian witness testified that he escorted Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar to the St. Peter’s Parish to allegedly deliver ransom money to the Abu Sayyaf.

According to Ruben Hadji Abdulsalam, he was “forced” by Akbar to accompany him in delivering “two attaché cases” to the Abu Sayyaf. “He forced and threatened me to come,” said Abdulsalam.

Abdulsalam said Akbar got the attaché cases from the residence of Lamitan Mayor Inocente Ramos.

“We then walked to the St. Peter’s Parish where, upon reaching the gate, Governor Akbar told me to just stay put,” said Abdulsalam, who testified that he had been so terrified about being so close to the bandits that he urinated in his pants.

But Pichay doubted Abdulsalam’s testimony, pointing out “inconsistencies and other illogical circumstances” in his story.

“First of all, what governor would dare to gamble with his life just to deliver ransom? He could have easily called on someone else to do the chore,” Pichay said. ***With reports from Rocky Nazareno, AP and AFP***

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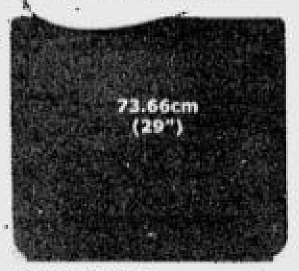

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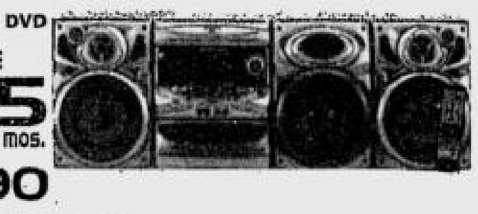
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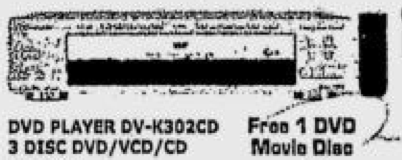
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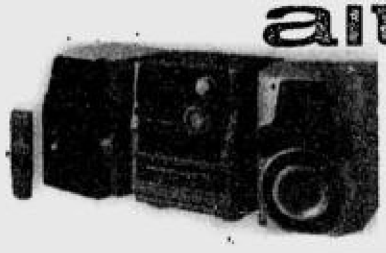
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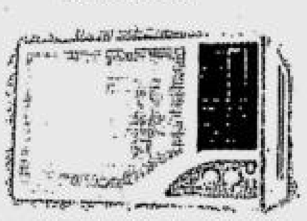
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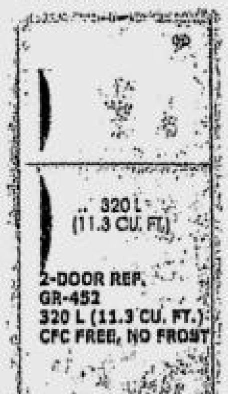

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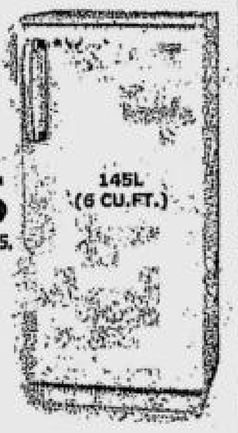

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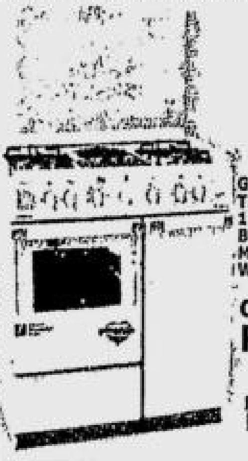
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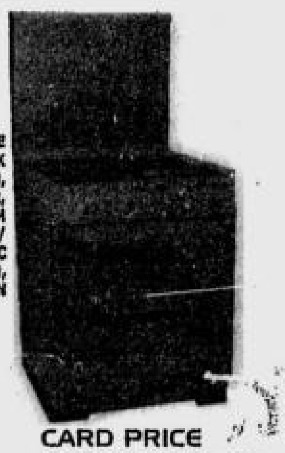
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Sabaya: We paid official to escape

(From page A1)

the group's leader, Khaddafy Janjalani, spoke to a local government official using a satellite phone. The official then sent a male emissary to talk to the Abu Sayyaf.

At the Lamitan hearings conducted by the House defense committee last weekend, Nacorda and some local residents testified that local government officials in the province were protecting the Abu Sayyaf. Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar was one of those mentioned by some of the witnesses.

In his phone call, Sabaya quoted Janjalani as telling the official in Filipino: "It would be a waste if those foreigners die." Janjalani explained to the local official how much money would go to waste if the foreign hostages got hurt in the cross fire. Sabaya said it did not take them long to convince the local official.

The local official assured them: "*Makakaalpas kayo* (You can escape)."

But Sabaya said the official told them through his emissary that their group would have to give a certain amount to some military officials. The official did not name the military officials, however.

Earlier that day, Sabaya said, another Abu Sayyaf leader, Abu Soliman, was on the satellite phone negotiating the ransom. But at that point the ransom money had not yet arrived. (Soliman was later killed in an encounter.)

Short of cash, Sabaya said that they destroyed the cash vault of the Jose Torres Hospital and found nearly P700,000 in cash.

Attaché case

The black attaché case which witnesses reported seeing in the hands of a military official was actually taken from one of the rooms in the hospital, Sabaya said. The cash from the hospital vault was then placed inside the case and given to the emissary.

To date, no ex-hostage or other witnesses of the hospital siege have said anything about the bandits stealing cash from the hospital, although some have recalled that the Abu Sayyaf stole valuables from both the church and the adjoining hospital.

At around 4:30 in the afternoon, another exchange of gunfire ensued. It was at this point, Sabaya said, that he called the local official through his satellite phone and shouted, "*Akala ko ba ayos na* (I thought all was clear)?"

Sabaya said the local official told him there was already an order for the backup troops (possibly the Philippine Marines) to position themselves in another area. The official also reportedly told him that the Army troops directly confronting them were not to be augmented anymore.

At around 5:30 in the afternoon, the firefight resumed, but Sabaya said that by that time his group was already certain they would no longer meet the blocking force deployed in the area.

Greedy

Sabaya said that he believed the ground troops had no idea what was happening, however.

Asked whether the Abu Sayyaf had a standing agreement with the local official they contacted, Sabaya answered "No." What happened, he said, was just a "temporary" arrangement.

Why, this reporter asked him. He answered, "Isn't it obvious? Money was the reason. That official's greedy."

Sabaya's version

According to Sabaya, the group with its hostages entered Lamitan shortly after midnight of June 2. Their main purpose was to simply get food and soft drinks as requested, he said, by the hostages they had abducted from the upscale Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan on May 27. They also intended to get medicine from the Jose Torres Hospital as first aid for those wounded in an earlier encounter with the military in the neighboring town of Tuburan.

They also forcibly entered St. Peter's Parish, positioning a sniper at the church bell tower for security purposes.

It was around 2 a.m. when a truck loaded with military personnel was spotted by the sniper heading in the direction of the church and the adjacent hospital.

"We positioned ourselves," Sabaya said, stressing that at that point they thought the military was already aware of their presence. He said they only found out later that the Scout Ranger team they ambushed had no idea they were in the area. Sabaya noted that most of the Rangers killed in the ambush were not carrying firearms.

This statement tallies with the account of Capt. Ruben Guinolbay, commander of the Scout Ranger unit, who testified at the Lamitan hearings.

He said he and his men were on their way to get their firearms when they were fired on by the Abu Sayyaf.

The payoff for the escape allegedly took place during a prolonged lull in the firefight, at around 3 p.m. of June 2.

As one of the Manila-based journalists who covered the Lamitan siege, this reporter must note that Sabaya's version of "silence" from both sides was true. This was about the same time that the journalists were either calling their stations through satellite phones or writing their stories, eating, or catching up on their sleep.

Akbar is acknowledged by the Abu Sayyaf as one of their founding leaders. But the group also confirms Akbar's claim that they have parted ways because of ideological differences. Akbar was their Arabic teacher, and specialized in Arabic translation and the Koran.

In radio interviews, Akbar denies any link with the Abu Sayyaf, stressing that he is in fact their No. 1 enemy.

Suspect in priest's murder surrenders

(From page A1)

Akmad Omar, police chief of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. "They were arguing in the Maranaw tongue."

Witnesses told the INQUIRER that the 57-year-old priest—fondly called "Father Popong" by his parishioners in Malabang, Lanao del Sur——ran when he saw Daing pointing an M-16 rifle at him. He was running toward a house to seek help when he was felled.

Halley was first shot in the buttocks, witnesses said. Then Daing came up to him and finished him off with four more shots.

Suspects in MILF camp

Omar said police had received surrender feelers from two more of Halley's attackers, including Daing, supposedly a son of a commander of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

But Omar said that police were not banking on these feelers and that efforts were being made to arrest those still at large.

Still, police will find it difficult to arrest Halley's attackers because they are holed up inside the MILF's Camp Jabal Nur in Marogong town, Omar said.

"We will probably need the help of the MILF hierarchy in arresting (them)," he said, adding that police could not just enter the rebel camp to serve the warrants of arrest because of the ongoing peace negotiations between the government and the MILF.

Formal request

Eid Kabalu, spokesperson for the MILF, said it was willing to extend help for the immediate arrest of Halley's attackers if they were indeed hiding in Camp Jabal Nur.

"But because we want everything to be official, what the police should do is make a formal request to our negotiating panel," Kabalu said.

However, the MILF doubts the veracity of the police information on the whereabouts of Halley's attackers, he said.

Kabalu reiterated that "the suspects do not belong to the MILF."

"And if indeed they ran into one of our camps, they will be easily arrested there. Murderers have no place in our areas," he said.

Yesterday, police filed charges of murder and attempted kidnapping against Ibrahim, Daing, Ali, a certain Dimasangkay and three others before the state prosecutor's office in Marawi City.

Omar said he would have to inform Jesus Dureza, the government's chief peace negotiator, about the filing of the case so the information could be relayed to the MILF.

More condemnation

In Cagayan de Oro City, members of the Bishops-Ulama Conference of the Philippines strongly condemned the killing of Halley.

A statement issued by the group, which was read by Bishop Antonio Ledesma of the prelature of Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur, said that Muslims and Christians valued human life and that killing a man of God like Halley constituted the utmost disrespect.

Prof. Mahid Mutilan, a member of the group, said they hoped that justice would be served.

"(Members of the religious) should not be subjected to such atrocities. They are here to help the people regardless of ethnic affiliation, among others," Mutilan said.

On Wednesday, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the police and military in the South to "intensify operations" against Halley's attackers.

Agence France Presse quoted Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, chief of the Armed Forces' Southern Command, as saying that extra troops had set up positions around Malabang to stop the group from escaping.

"They should face the bar of justice. They have taken away the life of a peace-loving person, and a foreigner at that, who showed concern for civilians," Camiling said. ***With reports from Butch D. Enerio, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AFP***

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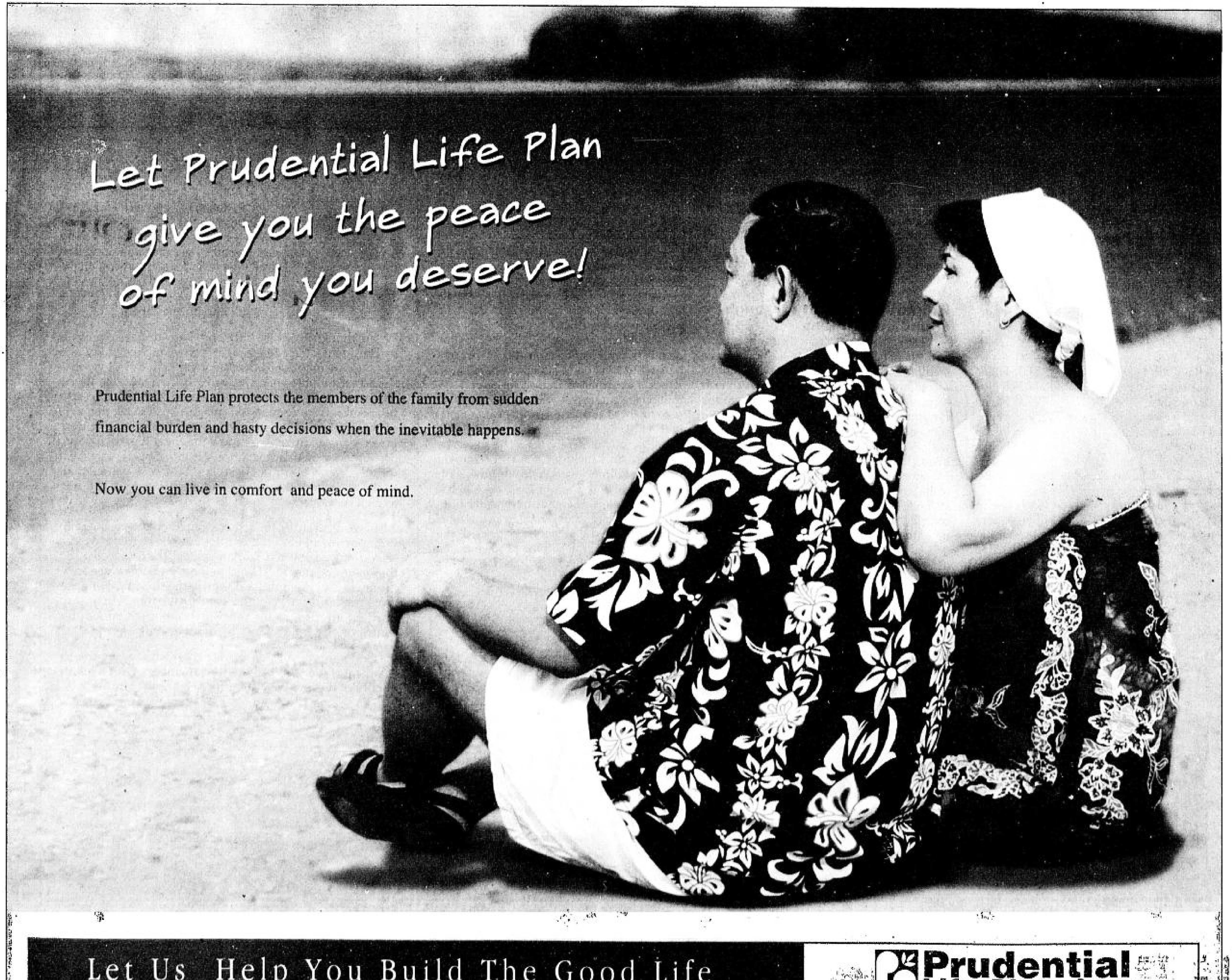
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The SSS at 44

Renewing the Pledge of Service

As the nation returns on the road to progress, the Social Security System (SSS) is once again poised to play a vital role as a catalyst for socio-economic development while providing Filipinos from all walks of life with a socially secure future.

Now on its 44th year of service, the SSS has continuously reviewed and enhanced its loan and benefit programs in order to provide service that is relevant and meaningful in these changing times.

Our covenant of service

Earlier this year, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo secured the commitment of her key officials to the Eight Tenets of Ethical Public Service. The SSS employees embrace these tenets as the moral compass guiding civil servants working for the Filipino people.

Along with these ethical guidelines, the SSS was given the mandate to renew its commitment to serve its stakeholders - the ordinary wage earners, farmers and fisherfolk, laborers, domestic helpers, and millions of other Filipinos and their families whose contributions the SSS holds in trust.

It is this overriding desire to make a difference in the lives of its clients that gave birth to the Covenant of Service Program of the SSS which demands trustworthiness, a desire to achieve concrete results, and a yearning for continuous improvement from each individual.

Under this program, the SSS will commit to deliver key services such as pensions and loans processing within a prescribed period of time. The Covenant of Service will be posted in every SSS branch lobby for public awareness. The covenant affirms the SSS' commitment to deliver quality service.

Providing benefits and loans in times of need

From 1957 to 2000, the SSS paid out a total of P209.81 billion in social security and employees' compensation (EC) benefits that represented 20.48 million in settled claims.

The total benefit payments are:

Retirement	P 81.32 billion
Death	P 71.29 billion
Disability	P 26.45 billion
Sickness	P 12.29 billion
Maternity	P 10.69 billion
Funeral Grant	P 6.78 billion
EC Medical Service	P913.95 million
EC Rehabilitation Service	P 74.63 million

From January to June 2001, the SSS provided a total of P17.67 billion in social security to 1.31 million members, broken down as follows: P7.45 billion (retirement); P5.75 billion (death); P1.61 billion (disability); P949.51 million (maternity); P749.25 million (funeral grant); P602.49 million (sickness). EC benefits paid out during the first six months of the year totaled P561.42 million. Benefit payments during the first half of 2001 represented an increase of 17 per cent compared to the P15.09 billion it paid over the same time last year.

With several amendments to the Social Security Law, the latest of which was Republic Act 8282 approved last May 1997, the SSS now provides an average monthly pension of P2,533, with its highest pension at P13,044. A total of 819,492 pensioners are being provided social security benefits every year.

Since 1957, the SSS has implemented 23 pension increases, the last one taking effect on September 1, 2000. In contrast, the contribution rate has been increased only three times —in 1974, 1979, and 1980 and has remained at 8.4 percent for over 20 years while minimum pension levels have been enhanced 19 times within the same period.

The SSS also plays an instrumental role in helping its members cope with their financial difficulties through various loan programs.

The SSS began providing housing loans in 1958, salary loans in 1964, and calamity loans in 1981. From 1958 to 2000, the SSS has granted various loans totaling P125.45 billion pesos to more than 18 million SSS members.

During the first semester of 2001, member loan releases amounted to P4.42 billion, of which P4.30 billion represented salary loans to more than 362,000 members. Housing loan releases to member-beneficiaries amounted to P103.04 million.

Promoting stability through sound investment

Throughout its 44 years, the steady growth and financial soundness of the SSS can be credited to the balanced management of its assets and investments. Since the time it received P500,000 as seed money from the Philippine Government, SSS has grown to become the country's biggest pension fund with P176.9 billion in assets and close to P160 billion in investments.

From January to June 2001, total revenues of the SSS amounted to P23.28 billion, of which P15.68 billion represented members' contributions while P7.60 billion came from investment earnings.

As of June 2001, the SSS has distributed its investments in the following areas: Private Sector (28.89%); Housing Sector (26.41%); Government Sector (17.59%); Salary Loans (15.28%); Development Loans (7.6%) and Real Estate Sector (4.23%). The SSS contributes to national progress by investing in sectors considered as "prime movers" of the economy such as the banking, public utilities, telecommunications and manufacturing sectors.

Furthermore, the SSS Charter enforces controls mandating fund managers to prudently invest in areas regarded as safe while yeilding good investment returns.

Social justice, universal coverage

Indeed those who have less in life must have more in service and development assistance. As far back as 1988, the SSS has been providing assistance to the disadvantaged and the marginalized sectors through its social development and business loan programs.

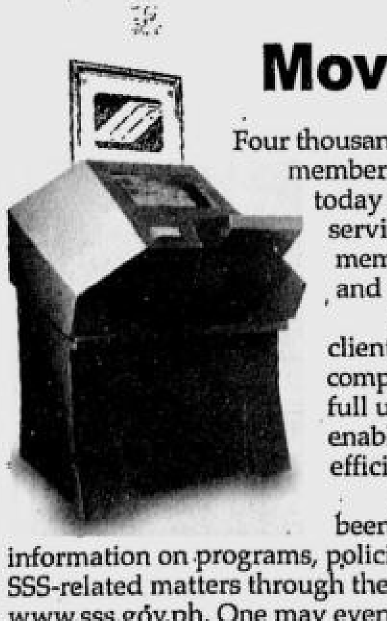
SSS lending programs are geared toward assisting small and medium-scale enterprises, hospitals, educational institutions and businesses that promote countryside development such as tourism projects. From 1988 to the present, over 98,000 jobs have been created as a result of these lending programs. These have also facilitated the construction of 3,900 new classrooms and over 3,700 additional hospital beds.

Congruent with its social mission, the SSS has also extended social security protection even to household persons, informal sector workers, parents, spouses or children of single proprietorships and working children who are below 15 years old.

As of June 2001, the SSS had 23.7 million members, representing more than 70 per cent of the entire Philippine labor force population, which is 33.62 million. Of the total figure, 19.17 million are employees while 3.97 million are self-employed and voluntary members. A total of 623,510 employers enjoy the privileges of social security under the SSS. This universal coverage also includes a total of 240,412 overseas Filipino workers as of June 2001.

Since its inception in 1957, the SSS has seen the nation emerge triumphantly from one crisis after another. Through all this time, it has remained a steadfast partner of the government and the Filipino people. It is in this same spirit of fidelity that the SSS renews its pledge of service to its members on the occasion of its 44th anniversary. ◪

Moving forward with high-tech service



Four thousand to one. This is the ratio of SSS members to SSS employees. The SSS today has 5,000 dedicated employees serving the needs of 23 million members throughout the Philippines and other countries.

Faced with a large number of clients and millions of transactions completed every week, the SSS makes full use of the latest technology to enable it to deliver prompt and efficient service at all times.

Since 1998, SSS members have been able to obtain up-to-date information on programs, policies, facts and figures, and other SSS-related matters through the System's web site at www.sss.gov.ph. One may even download and print out frequently used forms from the site should he/she wish to apply for membership or file benefit claims. Other forms will soon be posted on the site to make it easier for members to transact business with the SSS.

Internet technology also enables the SSS to systematize and hasten the collection and posting of its members' contributions. Through the SSSNet, an electronic data interchange facility, a company can securely remit its employees' contributions and the accompanying collection report electronically with a few mouse clicks. A new Electronic Collection and Payment Program is also in the works, which will allow even small and medium-sized companies to economically pay their contributions through the Internet.

The SSS strives to bring its services to where members are. Through the SSS Infoline, a computerized information kiosk, members can get information on SSS programs and inquire about the number of their contributions even without visiting or calling an SSS office. Five Infoline kiosks are located in high-traffic places such as shopping malls, which members visit frequently. Because of the usefulness and popularity of this service, the SSS is planning to set up 10 more kiosks nationwide and abroad.

Through the use of the new SSS identification card, the Internet, and other new technologies, the SSS is gearing up for the challenges of delivering social security in the 21st century and making its services available round-the-clock. In cooperation with banks, telecommunications and information technology companies, and its other partners in government and the private sector, the SSS is maintaining its lead as a provider of top-notch service to 23 million valuable clients throughout the world. ◪

MESSAGES

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

I would like to convey my sincerest felicitations to the **Social Security System (SSS) on its 44th Anniversary.**

My esteemed greetings go to all the men and women in the service on this auspicious occasion. May you find inspiration in this celebration to rise above the challenges that beset your noble institution, and pursue with greater vigor its mandate of providing social security service to over 23 million Filipinos. Your triumph as an institution over these challenges that you have overcome should strengthen the resolve of all officers and staff of SSS to improve their services to our countrymen.

The SSS is the servant of the people with a sworn mandate to help improve and ensure the quality of life of its members: the widows, the orphans, the aged, the sick, the needy and the disabled. I call on the men and women of the SSS to unite and make a stand in pursuit of public service. The true test of genuine public service is the willingness to answer the call of personal involvement in the lives of others without notable recognition.

Kayo ang inaasahan ng ating mamamayan upang maging kabalikat tungo sa pagbabago. Alam kong hindi ninyo sila bibiguin.

Mabuhay ang SSS at ang mamamayang Pilipino!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

* * *

Republic of the Philippines
Social Security Commission

It is with great pleasure that I extend my heartfelt greetings to the Social Security System as it celebrates its 44th anniversary. I take pride in being part of an institution that has left an indelible mark of distinguished public service on the Filipino people.

As we celebrate our 44th year of service, I urge the men and women of the SSS to reaffirm their role and place in the improvement of the quality of life of Filipino workers. On our shoulders lie the collective responsibility of building on the accomplishments of the past and refocusing our services to suit the emerging needs of the times.

Congratulations and may God be with you all!

BERNARDINO R. ABES
Chairman

* * *

Republic of the Philippines
Social Security System

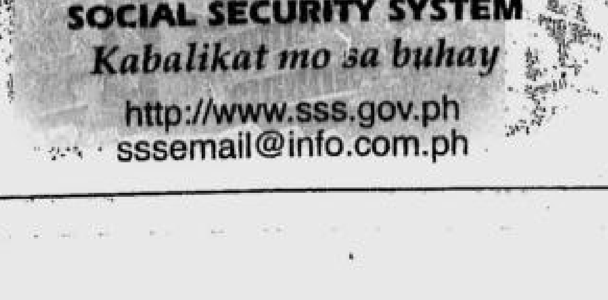
It is an auspicious time to come and serve the Social Security System as it celebrates its 44th founding anniversary. We sincerely regard it as a challenge and an opportunity to be able to contribute in the ultimate goal of enhancing the service and benefits extended to our members.

We are thankful for the confidence and support expressed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as we continue to pursue our mandated duty to establish and develop a sound and viable social security system suitable to the needs of the Filipino people. The Social Security System fully embraces President Macapagal-Arroyo's eight tenets of good governance - trustworthiness, result-orientation, poverty-focus, citizenry empowerment and participation, constituency feedback, continuous improvement, respect for others and a simple lifestyle. These core values shall serve as our moral compass and official code of conduct as civil servants.

Also, we shall strive to further strengthen the partnership with our members - the employers, the employees, the self-employed, the voluntary members, the fisherfolks and the seafarers, the household helpers and street vendors, the small and medium-scale entrepreneurs and Filipinos working abroad. We shall continue to devise and implement programs that will safeguard member contributions and enhance member benefits.

By God's mercy and grace, we shall succeed in all our efforts and plans to provide our members with a better quality of life and ensure for them a brighter future.

CORAZON S. DE LA PAZ
President



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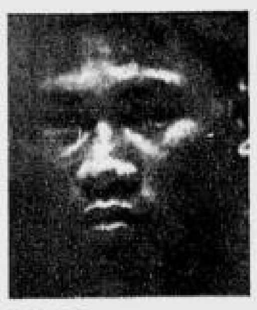


SUICO

UNDEFEATED Filipino junior lightweight champion Randy Suico battles Australian champion Karim Nashar today at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City.

Suico weighed 131 pounds to Nashar's 132 during yesterday's weigh-in in front of Eduardo Villanueva, the new chair of the Games and Amusements Board.

After the weigh-in, Nashar said: "I am in good shape and feel very relaxed, that's why I am going shopping at SM Megamall after lunch." He said he goes to discos three times a week to dance as part of his training regimen.

In other fights, Joma Gamboa (30-6-1, 21 KOs) battles Thai No. 3 Samransak Singmarassak (13-3, 11 KOs), with the winner challenging newly crowned champion Yutaka Niida of Japan later this year.

Sensational No. 1 minimum weight Rodel Mayolo (7-0,6 KOs) faces Pigmy Muangchaiya, the Thai No. 2, while veteran Noel Tuñacao, RP No. 3 (34-5-2, 15 KOs) faces former world champion Songkram Porpaoin (20-2-1, 11 KOs).

"K.O.@Antipolo" is a joint presentation of ex-Gov. "Ito" Ynares and Viva Sports president Vic del Rosario and is sponsored by San Miguel Beer and Pagcor.

RP wins 1st gold in female boxing

THE PHILIPPINES won its first gold medal ever in women's boxing Wednesday when Mitchel Martinez beat China's Chan Dan in the lightwelterweight title in the first Asian Women's Boxing Championships in Bangkok.

The RP Team captain won by RSC (referee stopped contest) in the first round after a rain of punches right from the bell battered her Chinese opponent helpless.

Martinez's victory capped a first-ever campaign overseas for Manny Lopez's wards that also saw four other Filipinas win bronze medals.

"This is only our first attempt at female boxing but we already won a gold," said Lopez. "This is a resounding start for us, and we are profoundly inspired to move [illegible]

The bronze medalists were Alice Kate Aparri in 45 kg, Librada Tamson (48 kg), Jouvillet Chilem (57 kg), and Rosie Villarito (60 kg).

The female boxers were sent to Bangkok by the Pacific Asphalt and Concrete Mix and Ali Sportswear, with support from the Philippine Sports Commission.

Martinez is a police officer based in Camp Crame, who used to indulge in shot put.

Among those who congratulated Martinez were Filipino missionaries.

"I worked hard and I prayed hard before I went to bed last night," said Martinez, 25.

Martinez said she will go down to 60 kg for the first World Women's Boxing Championships on Nov. 22 to Dec. 1 in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Dayrit favors MBA team over PBA squad

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee would rather stick with MBA players than a PBA team in the Southeast Asian Games next month.

POC president Celso Dayrit yesterday said he would personally lobby for the MBA squad to be the country's official representative in men's basketball in the Kuala Lumpur Games on Sept. 8-17.

"I will ask the SEA Games Task Force to name the team as the country's official entry in the games," said Dayrit.

The team, spearheaded by MBA superstars Rommel Adducul and John Ferriols, was already submitted by SEA Games chief of mission Freddie Jalasco in Kuala Lumpur on Aug. 10.

It was the same squad that won the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) championships held in Manila in April.

"At that, I would like to thank Commissioner Jun Bernardino and the PBA for offering one of their teams to the SEA Games," said Dayrit.

The PBA Board of Governors already approved the fielding of a PBA team—either All-Filipino champion San Miguel Beer or Commissioner's Cup titlist Batang Red Bull.

NU upsets UST; Ateneo survives Adamson

By Dennis U. Eroa

THE SMALLEST Bulldog made the loudest growl as National University fortified its Final Four bid with a stirring 72-69 win over University of Santo Tomas yesterday in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Loyola Gym.

Only 5-foot-7, Froilan Baguion delivered the telling blows as National University rallied from 16 points down in the third quarter, paving the way for the Bulldogs' blistering finish.

The Bulldogs improved their mark to a third-running 6-4 win-loss card, while dropping the Tigers to 4-6.

Later, Ateneo walked the tightrope before escaping with a 63-61 victory over tailender Adamson. Ateneo kept solo second with an 8-2 card, while Adamson dropped to 0-10. The Falcons also absorbed their 30th straight setback since August 1999.

Getting the hits from Jake Agleron and Emer Oreta, the Tigers posted their biggest lead, 52-36, 4:18 remaining in the third quarter.

But Baguion took over, scoring 14 points during NU's 16-2 run which reduced the deficit to just three, 52-55, at the end of the third.

Baguion then combined with Froilan Tolentino as NU kept the game close in the final 10 minutes. A running jumper by Baguion finally gave the Bulldogs a 71-69 lead, and NU jubilated when UST slotman Alwyn Espiritu lost the ball in the sidelines, 43 ticks left.

SCORES:

NU 72—Baguion 18, Napa 10, Tolentino 10, Neo 9, De Castro 8, Cayabyab 7, Manabat 6, Mendoza 4, Urbano 0, Grijaldo 0.

UST 69—Agleron 15, Oreta 13, De Guzman 11, Gelig 8, Espiritu 7, Hubalde 5, Raterta 4.

NCAA results

St. Benilde 70, Mapua 61
San Beda 82, Perpetual 61
NCAA Today (Rizal Coliseum)
12nn—Jose Rizal vs Letran (jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—SSC vs PCU (jrs/srs)

GM TORRE SHINES

Mt. Province chess champ

BALANGA, Bataan—Grandmasters Eugene Torre and Joey Antonio put on a dazzling show of chess upmanship for almost four hours but their match still ended in a draw, allowing Mt. Province to walk away with the title in the 2001 Inter-Provincial Chess Team Championship at the People's Center here.

Mt. Province and Bataan, the defending champion in this event last held in Cagayan de Oro City, ended tied at 2-2.

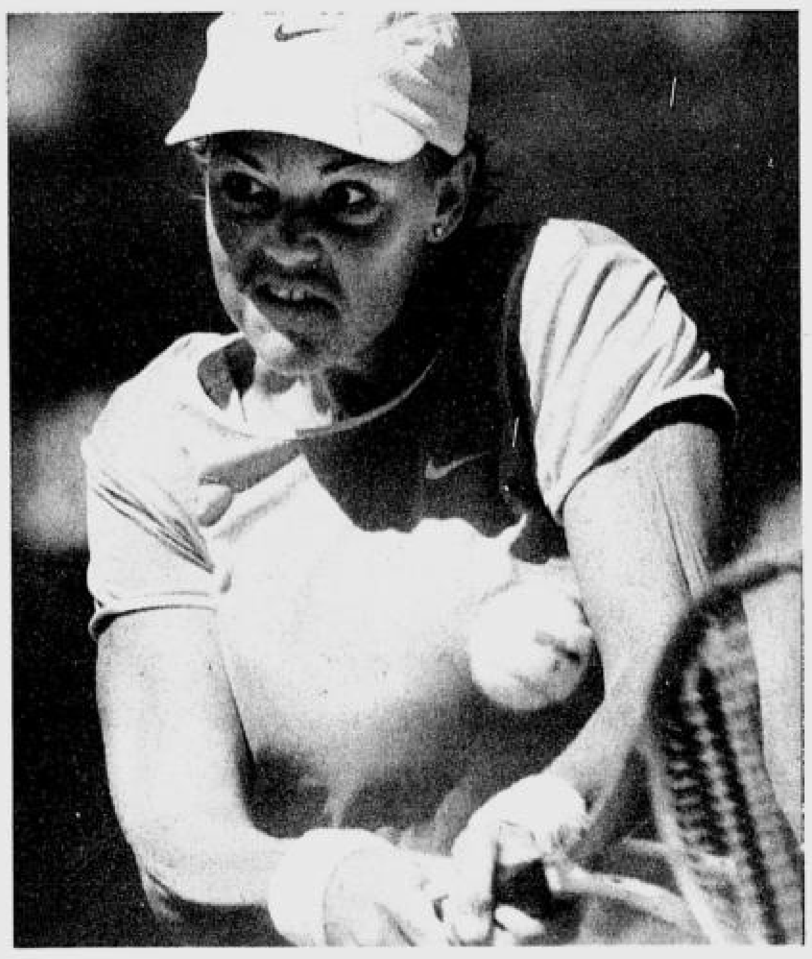
But Torre's team won the crown by virtue of a tiebreak, which specified that in case of a draw, the team whose Board 1 player handles the black pieces wins the match.

Torre, playing for Board 1 of Mt. Province (PCCA), and Antonio, Bataan's (Governor's Office) top gun, were the only players left in the competition area, as Antonio did his best to ward off Torre's mating threat of a queen and two bishops.

But after Torre moved his bishop to d4, Antonio had no other recourse but to exchange queens, leaving the position drawn.

In the lower boards, NM Rolando Nolte drew his match with IM Barlo Nadera; deaf-mute Liolen Tubianosa also agreed to a draw with Rex Ami, while Rolly Yutuc halved the point with Edmundo Gatus, leaving the two GMs to decide the outcome of the match to the delight of the big crowd including Bataan Gov. Leonardo "Ding" Roman.

"It was a very difficult win. But I'd like to commend my teammates for performing well despite great difficulties in forming the team. We'd also like to thank Rod Suaco," said Torre.



DEVASTATING

Third seed Lindsay Davenport executes a two-fisted backhand en route to a 6-0, 6-2 victory over Emilie Loit of France in the US Open in New York. Also scoring victories were Gustavo Kuerten, Martina Hingis, Patrick Rafter and Goran Ivanisevic. Fil-Am Lilia Osterloh lost her second round match against Yugoslavian Jelena Dokic, 6-3, 6-3. REUTERS

Tecson outlasts Thai golfer

SUBANG JAYA, Malaysia—The Philippines' Jenz Tecson, pacing himself well to preserve his energy, yesterday outlasted Thailand's J. Norachet to reach the quarterfinals of the seventh Asia Pacific Junior Match Play Championship here.

Tecson, 15, and a St. Stephen High School student back home, toured the par 72 Subang Golf Club with a 76 on nines of 38s in the morning to advance into the match play stage of the event.

A big crowd witnessed the start of the tournament, including Philippine Junior Golf Federation president Edgardo "Boy" Cantada and Tecson's coach Gerard Cantada. The three Filipinos were flown from Manila on business class by the Malaysian Airlines. Milo and Outback Steak House supported their trip.

35 to join Pasay derby tonight

SOME 35 Metro Manila cockers and breeders are seeing action in a special 3-cock derby tonight at Pasay City Cockpit. Fights start at 7 p.m.

Hosted by the 'D Three Cockers group, the event offers P150,000 in prizes for the winners. The required entry fee is P5,500.

Submission of weights (1.8 kg to 2.4 kg) is set today, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Interested parties may contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Meanwhile, Pasay Cockpit's stagfighting season starts on Sept. 14 via a 4-stag derby to be hosted by National Cockers Association (NCA) stalwarts Tonette Luzuriaga.

On Sept. 21, Jobo del Rosario, Ferdie Eusebio and Romy Arciaga will stage a 4-stag derby.

GMA urges new policy

PRESIDENT Macapagal yesterday urged the creation of a sports policy that would serve as framework for the Philippine Sports Commission's endeavors.

"What we need is a sports policy. We need to know what we are after and what are we spending the money for," Macapagal told sportswriters during the national athletes send-off party at Malacañang.

The PSC, she said, should embark on a systematic and professional study with consultations on different sectors of the sports community so as to spend the meager funding wisely.

The President was actually reacting to the P119-million 2000 budget of the PSC, which is asking the Chief Executive to restore the five-percent share it was supposed to get from the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corporation. *June Navarro*

Bata, Django leave

EFREN "Bata" Reyes departed Wednesday night for England where he and compatriot Francsico "Django" Bustamante will participate in the World Pool Masters 9-ball championship this weekend.

The three-day competition, to be held at Lakeside Shopping Center in Thurrock Esses, on Aug. 31-Sept. 2, will feature the world's top 16 players including, for the first time, a lady entry, three-time women's world pool champion Allison Fisher of England. The tournament will be televised by ESPN.

Bustamante, who flew to England from Germany where he is based, is the pre-tournament favorite.

"Bustamante has won at Lakeside before (1998) and he will start the betting favorite," said Barry Hearn, chair of promoter Matchroom Sport Ltd. which put up a total prize money of $50,000.

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UAAP unfair to La Salle?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

AS FAR as many are concerned, there is a serious misinterpretation of the eligibility rule on the part of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines board particularly in the case of Mark Cardona, La Salle's 6-foot-1 rookie sensation whose school records showed he studied previously at Carson High School in California for two years and three months. Having studied abroad for less than three years prior to his admission as freshman in La Salle last June, Cardona is clearly eligible to play in the UAAP this season because he did not violate the three-year eligibility requirement of the league.

But last Aug. 24 the UAAP board, headed by Anton Montinola of host school Far Eastern studying abroad" to mean not three academic years, not three 365-day years, but actually "any portion of any three years." On the basis of this interpretation, La Salle president Bro. Rolando Dizon said the UAAP board seems bent to declare Cardona ineligible and the games wherein he played forfeited!

"If this happens," Dizon stressed, "it will be a great travesty of justice. Why?"

Dizon said the eligibility rule in question has been substantially changed. For the UAAP board to now say that their intention was "any portion of any three years" and not "at least three years" is to admit that they made a mistake in the actual wording of the rule.

Therefore, the rule must be changed.

"They cannot take the present rule, interpret it to mean differently, then use it retrospectively to declare Cardona eligible. This is legally incorrect and morally unjust."

Furthermore, the UAAP rules require that any eligibility protest must be formally filed 24 hours before the start of the second round on Aug. 18. But no protest was ever filed against Cardona before the said deadline.

"The UAAP board cannot just motu propio ignore the deadline and order an investigation on a player's eligibility," said UAAP board member Danny Jose of La Salle. "It would be unfair to subject any team to an investigation at this late stage in the season. Besides, it's very obvious they want to gun down La Salle. They can't beat us in the hardcourt so they're bringing it over the board room." Defending champion La Salle is leading the field with an impressive 9-1 slate and looks headed to achieving a four-peat this year, thanks in part to smooth-playing Cardona.

"De La Salle University appeals to the sense of justice and fair play of the UAAP board," Brother Dizon stressed. "The good name of Mark Cardona and De La Salle have already been placed in doubt. Before any further damage is done, we ask the UAAP to drop the case. Justice demands nothing less."

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Narvasa quits

By Roy Luarca

LAWYER Ogie Narvasa has tendered his resignation as MBA commissioner effective tomorrow, Sept. 1.

In a letter addressed to the board of directors of the Multi-Regional Board Inc. dated Aug. 28, Narvasa said that with the death of his wife last June, he and his children have to make adjustments in their life as a family.

Narvasa said he had wanted to resign immediately after his wife passed away, but held it off because it was then the middle of the MBA First Phase.

Narvasa, who called his resignation as one of the most difficult decisions he had to make, also recommended that deputy commissioner Butch Antonio be designated as acting commissioner until his replacement has been chosen.

With his resignation, Narvasa followed the footsteps of Ramon Fernandez, the league's founding commissioner who lasted up to the 1999 season.

In closing, Narvasa expressed his gratitude to those persons who have supported him in his stint as commissioner and promised to keep in touch for the sake of basketball.

The MRBI will meet today to tackle Narvasa's resignation.

MBA back today

GAMES TODAY
(San Juan Gym)
3 p.m.—Nueva Ecija vs Socsargen
5 p.m.—LBC Batangas vs FedEx Laguna

THE NUEVA Ecija Patriots will parade a new coach and three new players when they tackle the Socsargen Marlins at 3 p.m. today in the opener of the MBA Second Phase at the San Juan Gym.

LBC Batangas tangle with FedEx Laguna in the 5 p.m. encounter.

Veteran mentor Arlene Rodriguez has taken over the post vacated by Jojo Villa and brought along Nemie Villegas as his deputy and team consultant. Rodriguez also enlisted the services of Jay Magat, Ramil Ferma and Paolo Malonso to beef up the Patriots' roster. They replaced Matt Makalinta, Junjun Bantigue and Dexter Racho.

The Patriots bested the Marlins twice in the First Phase though they both failed to advance to the quarterfinals in the conference won by the Andok's San Juan Knights.

Socsargen coach Boyzie Zamar has added Edwin Pimentel and Joselito Martin to the Marlins' roster.

The Blades also beat the Lakers, fresh from a fourth-place stint in the Jones Cup in Taipei, twice in the First Phase. Both teams opted to retain their lineups.

Sunday's games at the Tinga Gym in Taguig pit Cebuana Lhuillier against Nueva Ecija at 3 p.m. and LBC Batangas against Socsargen at 5 p.m.

If the MBA selection is tasked to defend the Southeast Asian Games basketball crown in Kuala Lumpur, games from Sept. 9-16 will be moved to Nov. 4-11. Games slated Sept. 5 and Sept. 7 will be moved to Nov. 14 and 16, respectively, to give way to the National Broadcasting Network's (PTV 4) coverage of the SEA Games. *Roy Luarca*

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‘Arrest those who don’t segregate garbage’

ABALOS

LUNCH BREAK A mother and her son take time out from scavenging at a garbage dump in Tondo, Manila to eat their lunch. ERIK ARAZAS

By Nelson Flores

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday appealed to local government units to arrest and prosecute those who would violate the law on garbage segregation even as he instructed garbage haulers not to collect unsegregated waste.

Abalos said the provisions of Republic Act No. 9003 or the Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 must be implemented for the sake of Metro Manila's cleanliness.

He pointed out that the failure of the public to properly segregate their garbage and the absence of any determined effort by the local governments to implement the law is the reason behind the mounting garbage problem in Metro Manila.

Abalos said the law is very clear that garbage should be properly segregated before garbage haulers collect it. Earlier, a number of local government units accused Abalos of lapses in the performance of his duties, citing the uncollected garbage in their areas as proof of his neglect.

But Abalos countered that "the complaining local government units obviously failed to comply with the law," which mandates the segregation of waste before it is collected.

Garbage haulers who do not comply with the law face a prison term of 15 to 30 days or a fine of P1,000 to P3,000, or both.

Abalos said that because of the law, the garbage haulers were placed in a dilemma whether to follow their contract with concerned local government units and violate the law and face sanction, or violate their contract and abide by the law.

Under the garbage segregation scheme, household and commercial waste should be segregated into wet and dry (degradable and nonbiodegradable) categories before they are collected by garbage collectors on scheduled collection days. Barangay officials are responsible for the schedule of collection.

Biodegradable waste, which accounts for more than 90 percent of the total 6,000 tons of Metro Manila's daily waste, would be recycled or composted in MMDA-operated

ARREST/ A26

- More charges vs Manor owners A26
- Senate probe waste of time, says JV A26
- Bare Eye: To Fiba, IOC: Literal, Puyat unfit for main event A26

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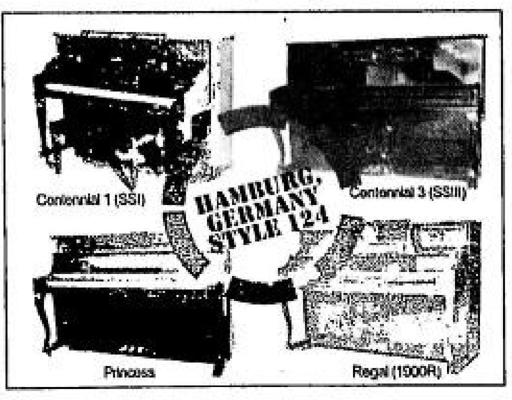

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Senate probe waste of time, says SJ mayor

By Agnes Donato

SAN Juan Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito yesterday said there was no point in continuing the Senate inquiry on the allegations of intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus against Sen. Panfilo Lacson as it was only "a waste of time and resources."

"This is no different from the impeachment trial of my father," said the son of deposed President Joseph Estrada. "It's all talk, really. Everything is based on hearsay."

The mayor was interviewed during the 105th celebration of the Battle of Pinaglabanan in San Juan yesterday morning.

He said the witnesses who have turned up against Lacson failed to come up with tangible evidence to back their claims.

He said he understood Lacson for wanting the Senate investigation to continue, saying that his father felt the same thing during the height of the *jueteng* scandal which led to his ouster in January.

"He (Lacson) probably wanted to prove his innocence and have his name cleared," the mayor said. "But if I were to decide on this, I'd rather that the Senate inquiry be stopped until the witnesses gather solid evidence to back their allegations.

"It so unfair that they are allowed to just accuse people without presenting substantial proof. Even issues that have long been resolved are being brought up."

He was referring to reports linking Sen. Tito Sotto to the illegal drug trade, among others.

More charges vs Manor owners

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

MORE charges were filed on Wednesday against the owners and incorporators of the Manor Hotel in Quezon City where 74 people died in a fire on Aug. 18.

Arson investigators recommended the filing of additional charges—violations of Presidential Decree 1185 or the Fire Code of the Philippines, according to BFP lawyer Edwin Tabaranza.

Charged were Rebecca Genato, wife of Manor owner William Genato, Porfirio Germina, Marion Fernandez, Dionisio Cua Arengino, Antonio Beltran, and Candelaria Aranador.

The lawyers of the accused urged authorities to hasten the preliminary investigation.

In the new complaint, the BFP cited the violations as: absence of automatic fire suppression system; defective standpipe system; defective manual fire alarm system; obstructed route of fire exit; inadequate secondary stairs/fire exit; no smoke and heat detectors; and inadequate portable fire extinguishers.

Last week, the Central Police District and the BFP lodged charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide against the Manor owners before the Quezon City Prosecutors' Office.

Assistant Prosecutor Alfredo Agcaoili said both charges would be consolidated into one case.

Agcaoili, who has been directed to consolidate the case in 30 days, said he would come out with a recommendation on Sept. 21.

Lawyer Benito Ambrosio, who represents the accused, urged investigators to hasten the completion of documents needed to resolve the preliminary investigation.

The Genatos were supposed to file countercharges a week after they were charged. But investigators have not yet completed the death and medical certificates of the victims.

"In fairness to the public, to the Genatos and the prosecutor, we are urging our investigators to speed up the submission of the documents," Ambrosio said. "We invoke our clients' rights to speedy trial."

Agcaoili gave the police until Sept. 5 to submit all pertinent documents. The Genatos will then be given a week to submit their counter-affidavit.

American found dead in Ermita hotel room

By Jerome Aning

A 65-YEAR-OLD retired American teacher was found strangled, bludgeoned and stabbed to death in his hotel room in Ermita, Manila Wednesday night.

Barth Suretsky, a native of New Jersey, was found in the comfort room of Room 2003 of the Alpha Grand View Hotel on 1716 M.H. del Pilar St. around 9:30 p.m.

SPO4 Rodolfo Rival Jr. of the Western Police District's homicide section said Suretsky had been living in the country for three years. He had been a tenant of the hotel for the entire year, and the room was registered under his name.

Investigators said Rafael Guerrero, a friend of the victim, went to the hotel to see him after the American failed to answer his calls both on the land line and mobile phones. Guerrero said he grew alarmed when nobody answered after he repeatedly pressed the buzzer to the victim's room.

Guerrero reported the incident to the hotel reception desk. Accompanied by a guard surnamed Denago, he went to the room and opened the door with a duplicate key.

They found Suretsky slumped in the CR with a nylon cord wrapped around his neck. The victim's head was bashed and his body bore numerous stab wounds.

According to SPO4 Rival, Suretsky "had several visitors, particularly boys." One or two of them could have been the suspect, he said.

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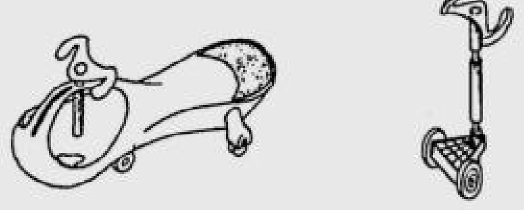

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To Fiba, IOC: Literal, Puyat unfit for main event

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

ALL you loyal sports fans out there, let's all salute the representatives of the Fiba (International Amateur Basketball Federation) and IOC (International Olympic Committee.)

It's nice of the two world sports bodies to have sent experts, scheduled to arrive tomorrow, who could hopefully resolve the childish basketball leadership row in the country.

The main event has been scheduled for Sunday.

And, from the look of things, there's no way they could call off the scheduled fight for the presidency of the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

Look, if we go by international standards, the main protagonists should first be subjected to a medical.

But there will be no serious checks to determine the fitness of the two top contenders.

You want to know why?

Both Lito Puyat and Tiny Literal, who continue to gawk and claw at each other, would be declared unfit for the position they shamelessly claim they hold.

The doctor's table, for one, would readily collapse and crash at the weight of their accumulated misdeeds, not to mention bloated ego.

***

OK. The Fiba and the IOC must've thought this is a simple basketball leadership tiff they would be officiating. The reason they sent in plain whistle blowers, basketball refs for short.

Truth is three international boxing referees would not be good enough to control Sunday's scheduled bout.

For the record, more than enough dirty blows had been thrown in the run-off to the main event.

The result was a big blackeye.

Puyat and Literal, not necessarily in that order, have caused the Philippines to be suspended in international basketball competitions.

And all they had to do was to be their usual childish, senile selves.

Which simply means that Sunday's main bout, although it promises to be very wild, could be a big drag, a non-fight, a forgettable mess of a leadership tussle.

It won't, in short, be another Thrilla in Manila. That's if they go by the rules of the game.

***

Yes, the rules of the game.

If the IOC and the Fiba would go by the strictures of international sports, both Puyat and Literal should instead be retired and banned.

As they have nothing to show, they have in fact been a bane to national sports development. A new set of contenders should be lined up for the BAP leadership bout.

Yes, if both the Fiba and IOC came here to resolve the ever-growing basketball mess in the Philippines, and not merely to officiate in a useless quarrel, they should've been batting for a complete overhaul of the system instead.

Plainly put, they should've not sent basketball referees, because boxing officials themselves would not do to control the main bout.

What's indeed necessary to check the decline of Philippine basketball is a team of surgeons who could do an emergency major operation on the rotten Philippine amateur basketball setup.

But that—the IOC and the Fiba moving for something truly sweeping and relevant to cure an ailing patient—may be equal to wishing for a star.

It's clear both international bodies have sent experts who could only try and help hopelessly sick sports leaders. Their chances of succeeding are quite slim, to be generous about it.

***

Anyway, last heard of, it suddenly appeared that the Puyat team is no longer keen on going on with Sunday's BAP election.

Not only because the voters in the scheduled poll would be composed mainly of directors who had previously picked Literal as their leader.

The reluctance is also being caused by this fear that two Fiba representatives from Asia have become rabid supporters of Literal, said to be the main dog of a Chinese connection that's reportedly staffed mainly by Go Teng Kok and Graham Lim here.

As expected, there's this new call, from a Puyat backer, for the international bodies to first call a meeting of the contending parties. From there, it's suggested that the Fiba and IOC representatives could have an honest-to-goodness review and assessment of the mess.

If, after the review of events, the situation still merits an outright vote, then by all means they should go on with the main event.

Without, of course, necessarily going through a physical and mental check that, needless to say, would show both top protagonists unfit to be the champion of long-overdue basketball renaissance in the Philippines.

Vendors can rebuild their stalls—Atienza

By Jerome Aning

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza on Wednesday extended a conciliatory hand to hundreds of sidewalk vendors angered by his "sidewalk liberation" campaign that drove them from major thoroughfares in the city.

The mayor said the vendors would be allowed to rebuild their dismantled stalls on side streets and to resume their selling.

"We understand their plight and recognize the dignity of their livelihood," the mayor said, "(so) they would be allowed to ply their wares along side streets under our organized vending program."

In a press statement, the mayor's office said that by joining the organized vending program, the vendors would be legitimized and they would be protected from extortion by corrupt policemen.

"It's better for them to be in the program because their operations would be deemed legitimate," he explained. "They would no longer need to bribe policemen because they're now legal."

Atienza advised vendors to coordinate with the Manila Hawkers Committe headed by Adil Khan. He said those who would join the program would even be entitled to "interest-free livelihood loans."

City Hall's drive to rid major streets of sidewalk stalls and other obstructions met strong opposition from vendors of second-hand books along C.M. Recto Avenue and Morayta Street.

On July 12, the vendors petitioned the Manila Regional Trial Court to stop the campaign, claiming they have valid licenses issued by the city government allowing them to do business on the sidewalks.

But on Aug. 6, RTC Branch 22 Judge Guillermo Purganan ruled that the granting of the licenses was subject to several conditions, one of which was that they could be revoked in the interest of the public.

Purganan said the licenses were "mere privileges" and not property rights, and could be revoked at any time. He said the court has no basis to question the prerogative of the city government to exercise its police powers, which include the right to revoke permits and licenses.

'Arrest those . . .

(From page A25)

recycling and composting plants.

Abalos said that once the garbage segregation scheme succeeds there would be no more need for huge landfills like the San Mateo Sanitary Landfill.

On Monday, owners of business establishments in San Juan joined households in complaining about the growing piles of trash in the streets.

The businessmen, mostly restaurant owners, said they might have to close down their businesses if the garbage continued to pile up in the streets and drive their customers away.

Charges vs nun dropped

By Alcuin Papa

THE RELATIVES of a Las Piñas grade school pupil who filed charges against a nun who injured the boy last week by throwing an eraser at him withdrew their charges on Tuesday.

Roland Datario, uncle of John Gilbert Datario, signed an affidavit dated Aug. 28 withdrawing the charges against Sr. Therese Yah, religion teacher of the Mary Immaculate Parish Special School in Moonwalk Village, Las Piñas City.

The uncle filed the charges last week against Yah, a Burmese national, after the nun threw a blackboard eraser at John Gilbert, a Grade 5 pupil, during their religion class last Thursday.

The eraser caused a gash on the head of the boy and blackened his left eye. Roland brought the boy to a hospital for treatment and filed a complaint before the Las Piñas Police Women's and Children Concerns Desk.

The indignant uncle had told reporters they would see the charges through until Yah was punished and even accused school officials of dropping the name of Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar.

But Roland had a change of heart.

"After serious reflection on the circumstances of the incident and considering that teachers are the surrogate parents of pupils while in school, I have determined that the disciplinary action taken by Sister Yah is in fact well-intentioned, in good faith and for the interest of John Gilbert," the uncle's affidavit read.

He said the filing of the charges "is a result of my misunderstanding and misappreciation of the facts and circumstances of the incident."

The affidavit was also signed by Las Piñas prosecutor Mario Mangrobang, who earlier investigated the case.

Roland said in a text message that he withdrew the case after a priest in their community, Fr. Fidel Fabille, talked to him and convinced him to drop the charges.

School principal Bella Hernandez told the Inquirer that she had sent a letter reprimanding Yah for the incident. "We don't want that to happen again," Hernandez said.

She said Yah had gone on a retreat but would be back on Monday to continue teaching.

Hernandez also said John Gilbert has been attending his classes again.

Woman needs help

JOSEPHINE Tapil, 23, recently fractured a leg when she jumped off a running jeepney after another passenger announced a holdup.

Tapil needs to undergo surgery which will cost P35,000, according to doctors at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, where she is confined.

Tapil is appealing for help. Good Samaritans may call 897-4798 and ask for Beth Andres.

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SIBS Publishing House's Statement on the Alleged Illegal Printing of Books

The management of SIBS Publishing House, Inc., in the spirit of justice strongly denies and deplores the news reports about the allegation of Phoenix Publishing House (PPH) that the former has been illegally printing and selling books published by PPH.

The Facts About SIBS Publishing House, Inc. and Phoenix Publishing House, Inc.

1. SIBS and Phoenix had been managed by one respected man of the publishing industry, Mr. Jesus Ernesto Sibal. He was the administrator/president of Phoenix Publishing House, Inc., and owner/president of SIBS Publishing House, Inc., until his untimely demise on October 3, 2000.
2. On October 17 and subsequently on October 26, 2000, some of the incorporators of Phoenix, composed of his mother, brothers, and sisters, seized one of the offices of SIBS Publishing House, Inc., in the so-called effort to protect the interest of Phoenix. Employees were barred from entering the establishment causing production disruptions, loss of personal belongings, and demoralization among employees.
3. This precipitated the separation of the two companies. What ensued was a process of legally dividing assets in terms of properties and books to be marketed. To facilitate a smooth turnover, SIBS entered into a marketing agreement with Phoenix, which by then was still trying to learn the ropes of the trade. Note that while the marketing agreement was in effect, SIBS did all the work of producing, promoting, and selling the textbooks of both firms.
4. As Phoenix learned the rudiments of the business and the profit that could be derived from it, Phoenix has caused the NBI to raid two SIBS warehouses. The NBI then confiscated the books which, by the terms of the marketing agreement, SIBS was legally allowed to sell. Phoenix then severed the marketing agreement with SIBS without just cause which we maintain was illegal.
5. Despite the ruckus, all employees and authors of SIBS are in full support of their president, Ms. Carmen Mimette M. Sibal, wife of Mr. J. Ernesto Sibal.

SIBS Publishing House's Core Values and Principles

1. **SIBS Publishing House, Inc.,** shall print and sell books only in those cases where it is legally authorized. It shall continue to conscientiously uphold the intellectual property laws.
2. **SIBS Publishing House, Inc.,** has an official sales force, which is composed of professional men and women who directly deal with school-clients. SIBS does not sell to secondhand bookstores nor does it offer less than competitive prices.
3. **SIBS Publishing House, Inc.,** shall cater to the private schools thus will not be involved in illegal printing as it maintains a reputable image as publisher of quality books.
4. **SIBS Publishing House, Inc.,** shall deal honestly with its corporate partners, namely, authors, printers, and employees as its records and accounting ledgers will bear out.
5. **SIBS Publishing House, Inc.,** shall promote the highest interest of the Filipino educators and schoolchildren by publishing quality books that meet their needs.

Carmen Mimette M. Sibal
President

Carmen Alegria M. Sibal
Vice-President for Corporate Affairs

Olivia Y. Pacifico
Olivia Y. Pacifico
Vice-President for Administration

SIBS Authors' Declaration of Support

We, the undersigned, publicly express our sincere sympathy and full support to SIBS Publishing House, whose good reputation as a legitimate and no-nonsense publishing company had been besmirched by a recent raid of agents of the National Bureau of Investigation on copyright infringement complaint by a competitor, Phoenix Publishing House.

As authors and coordinators of the SIBS textbook series, we have known and dealt with SIBS and we have every reason to state that SIBS Publishing House is professional, trustworthy, and scrupulous in all its dealings with its clients. SIBS respects authors' copyrights and publishes only original works, and it has always upheld and supported copyright laws. We, as authors, have authorized SIBS to publish our works.

As publisher of educational materials, SIBS is a competent producer of high quality books and is also regarded and acknowledged by schools and other publishing companies to be the leader in the textbook publishing business.

The copyright infringement complaint (illegal copying, illegal sale, etc.) by the SIBS's competitor therefore is completely baseless and preposterous. Likewise the raid by the NBI on SIBS premises without prior investigation is deplorable and a gross violation of due process.

Signed by:

Diana L. Faler Joseph L. Bok Teresita F. Religioso

M. Cantalejo M.R. Palaje

Remedios M. Rivera

Evangeline L. Ilagan Milagros C. Tadeo Erlinda C. Sygin Elma Q. Castro

Lani feels the pressure of performing solo at the Big Dome

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

A DECADE ago, **Lani Misalucha** was contented with earning her keep from recording commercial jingles and cover versions of pop songs for multiplex releases. Name the female artist—from **Whitney Houston** to **Mariah Carey**—Lani has recorded every song they popularized.

In her personal life, Lani was also happily settled as the wife of **Noli Misalucha**, a systems analyst for PLDT.

Lani never imagined herself launching a solo singing career. Neither did she see herself recording her own album. In fact, it took her a lot of convincing just to do a solo album, despite the numerous pop selections she has recorded.

"It took time for me to say yes to do an album because it was never in my plan," Lani says. "I was contented with what I'm doing. I never imagined getting this far. Never in my wildest imagination did I think that I would do concerts in big venues."

Lani had simple dreams. Her vision then of fulfillment was having a family, being a wife and a mother.

"For me, that was the greatest calling for any woman," she explains. "When I got married, I vowed to prioritize my family. I was happy just by being around them. The extra money that I was getting to augment the family income was enough for me."

But Lani was destined to be a singing star—and a big one at that.

Her debut album under Alpha Records, "More Than I Should," spawned a chart-topping Tagalog single, "Isang Ulit Man Lang" and the hit revival, "Somebody Warm Like Me."

"My only reason for recording that was to get it over with because they were bugging me to do an album," Lani discloses. "But having a hit song to my name was not my goal."

Even after her album was released, Lani did not intend to be a full-time singer. It was only in 1999 when she decided to focus on her solo career.

Lani acknowledges it has been a gradual ascent to where she is now.

"It was nothing abrupt," she says. "Even my kids knew everything I was doing as they were growing up."

To this day, Lani doesn't credit her success to only one person. There was **Bodjie Dasig**, who produced her first album. There was also her former manager, **Teng Perez**, who helped her career to take off.

Then there's **Ronnie Henares**, her present talent manager who has transformed her into a singing diva and has propelled her into an enviable status in the entertainment industry today.

MISALUCHA. Never imagined getting this far in her singing career.

After four years as a solo artist, Lani cannot be thankful enough for all the good breaks which came her way. In a short time in the local music scene, she has been ranked alongside first-rate singers such as **Regine Velasquez, Zsa Zsa Padilla** and **Kuh Ledesma**.

Lani was even blessed with awards. In 1999, she won the grand prize in the Metropop Festival when she interpreted **Dodjie Simon**'s composition, "Can't Stop Loving You."

This year, Aliw Awards named her best performer in music lounges, bars, clubs and restaurants.

"It has been very fruitful," Lani describes the past four years. "I realized this is what God gave me, so I might as well give my best to it."

But then, Lani has not been spared of the intrigues. When she performed last February alongside Zsa Zsa in "Love Concert" at Araneta, which also featured the Freestyle Band, Lani was accused of upstaging Zsa Zsa in their duet.

"That was probably how the audience saw it, but I never intended to do that," Lani explains.

Even in a simple occasion like the wedding of **Aga Muhlach** and **Charlene Gonzales** in Baguio last May, Lani became fodder for controversy. She was said to have stolen the scene when she showed up in the church in her gown, compared to **Regine Velasquez** who wore a simple three-piece suit. They both performed during the ceremony.

The talks inevitably earned for Lani the unsolicited tag of "Sapaw Queen," something which she simply despises.

When news came out that Lani was having a major concert at Araneta Coliseum on Sept. 8 (Saturday), not a few raised their eyebrows. After only four years in the music scene, does she have the right to go solo at the Big Dome?

Admittedly, Lani had apprehensions to do the Araneta concert.

"When I agreed to do the show, I knew criticism like that would come up," she allows. "But I told myself I have to be prepared for that. I have to accept it."

But her producers, Crossover 105.1, were confident Lani could pull it off. The show is part of Lani's "Crossover Live Tour," which kicked off in Cebu early this month. The series will also take her to Bacolod, Baguio and Davao.

Lani is only the third artist to be featured in a Crossover tour, after **Martin Nievera** and **Jaya**, who both had a series of successful concerts.

"Honestly, I never thought Crossover would get me to do a series of shows," Lani says. "After Martin and Jaya, you would expect someone like **Gary Valenciano** or Regine Velasquez to headline the next Crossover tour.

"That's why I feel the pressure to equal the success of Martin and Jaya's shows. I am worried that I might not fill up Araneta. I know it's a make-or-break gauge for artists who perform there. What if it turns out really bad? That's it for me and probably my career. So I really have my fears."

That's why Lani shows no let-up in trying to come up with a great show.

"I'm working doubly hard for this concert," she says. "Crossover has very good networking and marketing so I am confident they can make more people aware about my show. I know there are a lot of people who are happy for me and they are going to support me."

Robert Crespo, corporate communications manager of Mareco Broadcasting Network, Crossover's mother company, points out that the process of choosing artists to star in Crossover shows is something that is carefully considered. Not only must the artist be a crowd-drawer, he or she must also represent the kind of music that Crossover is known for.

"We cater to the AB and upper C market, so the choice of artists is crucial because it's a way of promoting the station," Crespo explains. "Everything has to go hand in hand with the music.

"So when we do a show, whether it's a major concert production like the 'Crossover Live Tour' or small shows like 'Crossover Presents,' we always choose artists who best embody the kind of music we play."

At the Big Dome, Lani will be joined by her special guests—Martin Nievera, **Joey Generoso** of Side A Band and singing newcomer **Malik**. Her sisters, **May** and **Karlyn Bayot**, will also perform with her. Musical director is **Louie Ocampo**; **Rowell Santiago** directs.

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Stiller, Paltrow, Willis star in new comedy caper

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

DRAMAS are great, but when times are as hard as they are now, there's nothing like a good comedy film for a real picker-upper. Alas, all that local producers can manage in that department these days is "Banyo Queen" with (duh) **Andrew E.**, so we'll have to turn to the imports for some real humor:

For out-and-out comedy, "Zoolander" has **Ben Stiller** playing a top male model, of all people, who's thrown into a midlife crisis when he's upstaged by a younger hunk.

Star-director Stiller admits that his latest flick has "a ridiculous plot," but hopes that it's also "ridiculously" funny. Among the story's subplots is an interlude where Stiller's character is practically hypnotized by a powerful fashion designer into assassinating the prime minister of Malaysia!

Go figure. Somebody should have told Stiller that we have more outrageous candidates here for comical mayhem!

Also promising is "Shallow Sal," directed by those antic siblings **Bobby** and **Peter Farrelly**, who slayed us with "Me, Myself and Irene."

In the Farrelly brothers' latest madcap movie, a notorious womanizer (**Jack Black**) is hypnotized to ignore external physical attributes for a change. Instead, he now falls for a woman's inner beauty.

Well, the "inwardly beautiful" woman he falls passionately in love with turns out to weigh 300 lbs.! The movie's big casting twist is the fact that this lovely fatso is played by—**Gwyneth Paltrow**!

How does the beautiful and svelte Paltrow transform herself into a femme fat-ale? With the help of a cleverly constructed fat suit, a feminine version of the fake avoirdupois that **Eddie Murphy** put on for "The Nutty Professor."

Third on our list of comic possibilities is "Bandits," starring **Bruce Willis** and **Billy Bob Thornton** as bank robbers with a unique modus operandi: they surprise bank managers at home and "convince" them to open their banks' vaults in the middle of the night, when the robbin' is easy.

Aside from comedy, "Bandits" promises some action, a number of chases, and a little romantic rivalry between the two bank-robbing partners, when a housewife (**Cate Blanchett**) gets into the picture.

Feedback

FROM **Boy Blue P. Filomeno**, spokesperson of the Philippine Alliance Against Pornography: "We would like to extend our deepest gratitude and congratulations for your recent exhaustive three-part series on the state of the Filipino film industry.

"It is true that we should be proud of being Filipinos and protect our legacy. We are the ones who can rebuild our shattered movie industry and country.

"Let us get rid of our attitude of going after big bucks and exploiting others. Greed is taboo in a civilized society. We must make sacrifices, be conciliatory, join hands and move forward.

"Sadly, our society is heavily bombarded with the worst news ever. Negativism is the order of the day. That is why many of us are hopeless and frustrated.

"We should support films that are inspiring, artistic and informative, that will help shape the destiny of our beloved nation. Please be counted and do your share!"

PARI warns industry on anti-piracy bill

THE PHILIPPINE Association of the Record Industry (PARI) cautions the entire entertainment industry, particularly music and film, from putting all their hopes on proposed House Bill No. 11855 to solve their piracy problem for them.

PARI president Danilo P. Olivares said, "We may have the best anti-piracy law in the world, but if it will be enforced half-heartedly and haphazardly, then piracy will still not be stopped."

The 1998 Republic Act 8293 and even its predecessor the 1972 P.D. 49, both protecting intellectual property rights, not only already have provisions for regulating the importation, exportation, manufacture, reproduction, distribution, sale, lease or disposition of entertainment media in finished product form, but also have the basic protection of the creative talents of composers, writers, and performers. Both have provisions for imprisonment and fine for violators.

Executive Order No. 60 in 1993 already created a superbody called the Inter-Agency Committee on Intellectual Property Rights (IAC-IPR), which have for its members who sit in the Board the Secretaries of Trade, Finance and Justice, and representatives from the National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detective Group, the Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau, the National Telecommunication Commission, Supreme Court, the Videogram Regulatory Board, the Intellectual Property Office, the Bureau of Customs, the Bureau of Food and Drugs, and two from the private sector representing the group of victims of piracy and counterfeiting and the lawyers group specializing on IP cases.

PARI fears the new bill will just create another superbody that will just impose more regulations, taxes and fees to the legitimate producers, reproducers, distributors and retailers of an already over-regulated audio/video industry, while the violators go scot-free because of inadequate enforcement.

According to Olivares, the present Videogram Regulatory Board is now effective as it conducts daily raids despite its very limited resources and budgets.

"It is a matter of the political will of the leadership to seriously fight piracy. Government should support the VRB with a bigger budget so that it can establish offices nationwide and raid pirates simultaneously all over the country," Olivares added.

The proposed bill may give the proposed Entertainment Media Regulatory and Anti-Piracy Board wider jurisdiction and responsibility more than what it can chew.

With the present economic situation of the country, PARI doubts if an annual appropriation of at least P60 million can be given to make the EMRP effective.

TRUE FAITH AT VIRGIN CAFÉ

True Faith takes centerstage at Virgin Café in Tomas Morato, Quezon City, tomorrow night, Sept. 1. The group will sing their hits like "Huwag Na Lang Kaya?," "Kung Okay Lang sa 'Yo," "Perfect" and "Sa Puso Ko." True Faith has come up with another album with songs like "Sumasarap ang Gising" and "Basta Basta" among others.

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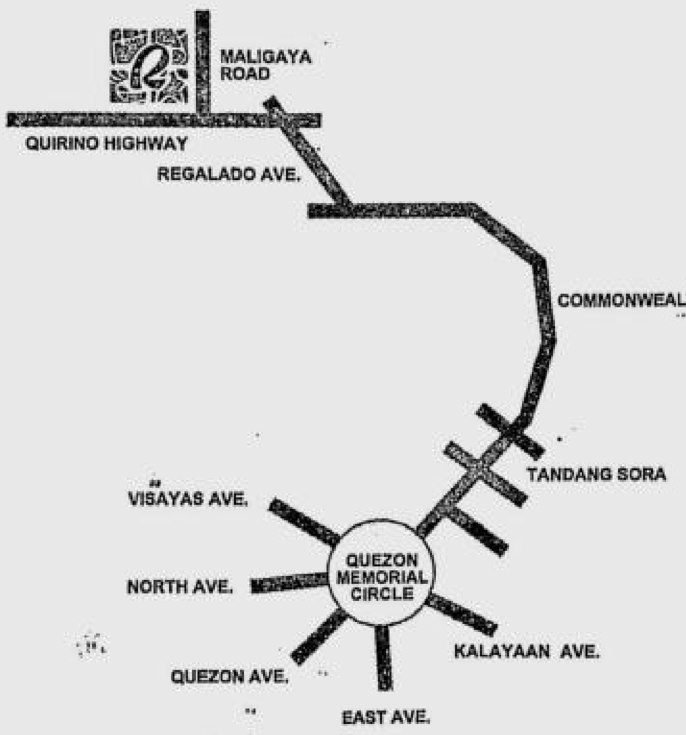

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3 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4 PLANET OF THE APES
5 TEENAGE SEDUCTION
6 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

SM SUCAT
8294975
1 SHREK
2 RUSH HOUR 2
3 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4 SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH

SM DAVAO
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2 RUSH HOUR 2
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4 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

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1 SHREK — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 RUSH HOUR 2 — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 RUSH HOUR 2 THX — In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 PLANET OF THE APES — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 RUSH HOUR 2 — In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 XIU XIU: THE SENT DOWN GIRL (Phil. Premiere) — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
Art Film

GREENBELT
1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN — In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2 RUSH HOUR 2 — In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 SHREK — In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4 MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE! AUG. 30, 31 & SEPT. 1 - 9PM Onstage

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1 RUSH HOUR 2 THX — In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 RUSH HOUR 2 — In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 SHREK — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 PLANET OF THE APES — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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2 (SDDS) PLANET OF THE APES
3 (DTS) SHREK
4 GOLD (DTS) BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5 GOLD (DOLBY) MOULIN ROUGE
6 GOLD (SDDS) RUSH HOUR 2
7 GOLD (DOLBY) RUSH HOUR 2
8 [illegible] BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
9 [illegible] BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10 [illegible] SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315
1 (DOLBY) RUSH HOUR 2
2 (DTS) SEX EDUCATION
3 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603
1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 RUSH HOUR 2
3 SEX EDUCATION

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 RUSH HOUR 2
3 IRA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) PLANET OF THE APES
5 SEX EDUCATION

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001
1 PLANET OF THE APES
2 SEX EDUCATION
3 SEX MEDUSA
4 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5 IRA
6 RUSH HOUR 2
7 RESERVE
8 RESERVE

PREMIERE THX CINEMA
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2 FINAL FANTASY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515
1 RESERVE
2 BROTHERHOOD
3 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
A SEX EDUCATION

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 PLANET OF THE APES
2 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 SEX EDUCATION
4 RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (DOLBY) RUSH HOUR 2
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5 SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
6 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7 (DTS) SHREK
8 (SDDS) CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
9 (DOLBY) PLANET OF THE APES

Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4 (SDDS) RUSH HOUR 2
5 SEX MEDUSA
6 (DOLBY) RUSH HOUR 2
7 (DTS) PLANET OF THE APES
8 KISS OF THE DRAGON
9 VENUS

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS) RUSH HOUR 2
2 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 RESERVE
4 VENUS
5 (SDDS) PLANET OF THE APES
6 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7 (DOLBY) RUSH HOUR 2
8 RESERVE

Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 RESERVE
3 (DTS) PLANET OF THE APES
4 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5 (SDDS) RUSH HOUR 2

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson KAMASUTRA 3
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THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 RUSH HOUR 2
2 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
3 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) RUSH HOUR 2
2 PLANET OF THE APES
3 SEX MEDUSA
4 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5 SEX EDUCATION

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619
1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 RUSH HOUR 2
3 BROTHERHOOD
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 SEX EDUCATION

Baclaran LRT LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115
1 (DOLBY) BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 SEX MEDUSA
3 SEX EDUCATION

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30
1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 SEX MEDUSA

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 RUSH HOUR 2
2 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 RUSH HOUR 2
2 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DTS) BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DTS) BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DOLBY) SHREK
4 BROTHERHOOD

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146
1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DOLBY) SHREK
3 (DTS) RUSH HOUR 2
4 TEENAGE SEDUCTION

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 TOM CATS
2 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) RUSH HOUR 2
2 SEX EDUCATION
3 IRA
4 (DTS) BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) BROTHERHOOD
2 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DTS) SHREK
4 IRA
5 TEENAGE SEDUCTION

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 RUSH HOUR 2
3 IRA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101
1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 SHREK
3 IRA

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1 PLANET OF THE APES
2 BAKIT DI TOTOHANINN
3 IRA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 TEENAGE SEDUCTION
3 SHREK

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DTS)

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 IRA
2 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 TEENAGE SEDUCTION

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 IRA
2 BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
3 COOL DUDES
4 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
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9 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10 SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12
1 RUSH HOUIR 2
2 SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
3 SHREK
4 RUSH HOUR 2
5 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6 CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL
7 PLANET OF THE APES

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1 RESERVED
2 SHREK
3 RESERVED
4 SHREK
5 RUSH HOUR 2
6 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7 RUSH HOUR 2
8 PLANET OF THE APES

IMUS
(046) 471-8168
1 RUSH HOUR 2
2 RUSH HOUR 2
3 PLANET OF THE APES
4 SHREK
5 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6 SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0463
1 PLANET OF THE APES
2 ANIMAL
3 MOULIN ROUGE
4 BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5 COOL DUDES
6 TEENAGE SEDUCTION

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	RADYO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SHREK
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	BROTHERHOOD
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SEX EDUCATION
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	ARAY/ OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
ODEON	RUSH HOUR 2
ODEON-2	SEX EDUCATION
ROBEN	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
TANDEM-1	TURN ON
TANDEM-2	PARU PARONG LIGAW
TIMES	WOMAN ON TOP/ VALENTINE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	RUSH HOUR 2
QUEZON-1	RUSH HOUR 2
REMAR	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
REMAR-2	SEX EDUCATION
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-2	JAPAN ANIME' FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	SEX EDUCATION
CINEMA-3	RADYO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BROTHERHOOD
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-7	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
CINEMA-8	IRA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	SHREK
CINEMA-12	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-14	SCREAM
CINEMA-15	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
CINEMA-2	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
CINEMA-3	SHREK
CINEMA-4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-5	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-6	PLANET OF THE APES
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	FIGHTING BACK
CINEMA-2	SAMBAHIN ANG PURI KO
CINEMA-4	HAYOP SA GANDA

Models visit bars

THE GORGEOUS models of Mild Seven treks the bars of Pasig, Alabang and Malate this weekend, for another round of the Mild Seven bar tour.

Night owls and party people of Pasig and Alabang get another dose of Mild Seven tonight. On the list are 8th Day, Friends, San Mig, Ten Years After, Tequila Joe's, Watering Hole and WhistleStop in Pasig.

Cable Car, Fat Tuesday, Gameworx, Giligan's, Padi's Point, San Mig, Studio 1 and Tequila Joe's top the list in Alabang.

Sept. 1 takes the team to Malate, where they will give away gifts and prizes to bar habitues of 617 Nakpil, Bedrock, Bravo, Java Hut, Jazz Rhythms, Kamameshy, Mint, Nth Degree, Padi's Point, Sala, Ten Years After, Timbuktu, Wave Bar, Indiana Café and City Square.

Java night

SEATTLE'S Best features Pido With Take One in the "Java Night" series, 8 tonight at Seattle's Best at the Rockwell Power Plant in Makati City.

Pido With Take One will dish out their most-applauded R&B, pop and light-jazz numbers.

The ongoing "Java Night" series also highlights special cuts from Pido With Take One's self-titled debut album on MCA Universal.

The group will also perform in the final leg of Seattle's Best "Java Night" series, Sept. 7 at the Libis branch in Quezon City.

'Bulalo' in the city

(From page A31)

easy since an alcoholic drink that's sweet and yummy would have a tendency to be "*traydor*" especially for a non-drinker like me.

The last thing they wanted was to have me plastered while taping my studio spiels and interviews. Sober I'm already irrepressible; can you imagine how naughty I'd be if I were inebriated?

Jean was very proud of the fact that all her food and drinks are popularly priced. If you are a night owl and are looking for a new place to try in the Quezon City area, give Eros a try. They start operating at 7 p.m. and stay open until 2 a.m.

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3 DJ's, 5 Movies, One Great Ending

Party Details:
Venue: Louie's THX Cinema
Date: August 31, 2001
Times: Doors open from 8:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M.
DJ's: Manolet Dario, Anthony Kalrulf & Steve Tambunting

Cinemarathon Details:
Tentative Schedule

Gladiator	8:00 PM
Matrix	11:00 PM
Mission Impossible 2	1:30 AM
X-Men	2:45 AM
What Lies Beneath	4:45 AM

Come and celebrate 8 great years of offering the very best movie experience while contributing to the lives of our brothers and sisters in need. Please spread the word and feel free to invite your friends, relatives, and associates

Hear the Difference. Feel the Excitement

ENTERTAINMENT

Louie C. Camino, Editor

'Bulalo' in the city

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

HERE'S my latest addition to my list of recommendable restaurants.

First up, R&J Bulalohan. I went to their branch in Mandaluyong, which is tucked into a corner very near the rotonda where the Mandaluyong City Hall is located.

The place is open 24 hours. I'd just finished a marathon studio taping session and I was making some of my staff *kulit* about really wanting some *nilagang baka*, preferably with *bulalo*. I called up my friend **Popoy** who'd mentioned that there was a place near his condominium which people really made an effort to go to because they really had the best *bulalo* in the city. If I wanted something as delicious, then I'd have to go all the way to Tagaytay or Batangas.

I convinced Popoy to meet us there. Together with my two writers **Ronald** and **Ruth**, we went in search of R&J. Popoy told us we wouldn't miss it because it was the end of the street, right across from Chow King on Boni Avenue. There was a big sign leading us to the open air restaurant.

In about 10 minutes from the time we placed our order; we got our piping hot bowl of soup. The portion was very generous, one order is filling enough for three hungry adults. The meat was very tender, the broth was very flavorful without being *ma-vetsin* (too much MSG), the vegetables were fresh, and the *"utak,"* as the waitress referred to the bone marrow, was plentiful and sinfully satisfying.

I try to prepare my own version of *nilagang baka* with *bulalo* at home. It really is a long process. Since I prefer not to use a pressure cooker, it takes almost two hours of boiling, then simmering, the meat in the broth to get the right measure of flavor and tenderness.

Now I've found a place that has my favorite Pinoy soup, at all hours of the day, at an extremely reasonable price, and without the hassle of having to prepare it myself. Perfect!

Recently on my program "Kris and Tell," I featured Eros, the restaurant and bar owned by **Jean Garcia**, located on the street behind Mario's on Tomas Morato.

For all of you *teleserye* addicts, Jean plays Madame Claudia in "Pangako sa 'Yo." Eros has been open since the start of August. I loved the way she did her interiors. The bar is S-shaped, almost snake-like, and Jean made creative use of lights under the glass counter top.

On one side of the bar is a screen on which a projector reflects some very cool DVDs which Jean brought home from Japan. They are very psychedelic and trippy, almost like a lava lamp with all colors of the rainbow dancing inside.

Most restaurants owned by celebrities aren't really popular because of their cuisine. People make an effort to go to them more because of the come-on that celebrities would hang out in the place. But Jean made sure she has good food, and she named her menu very creatively.

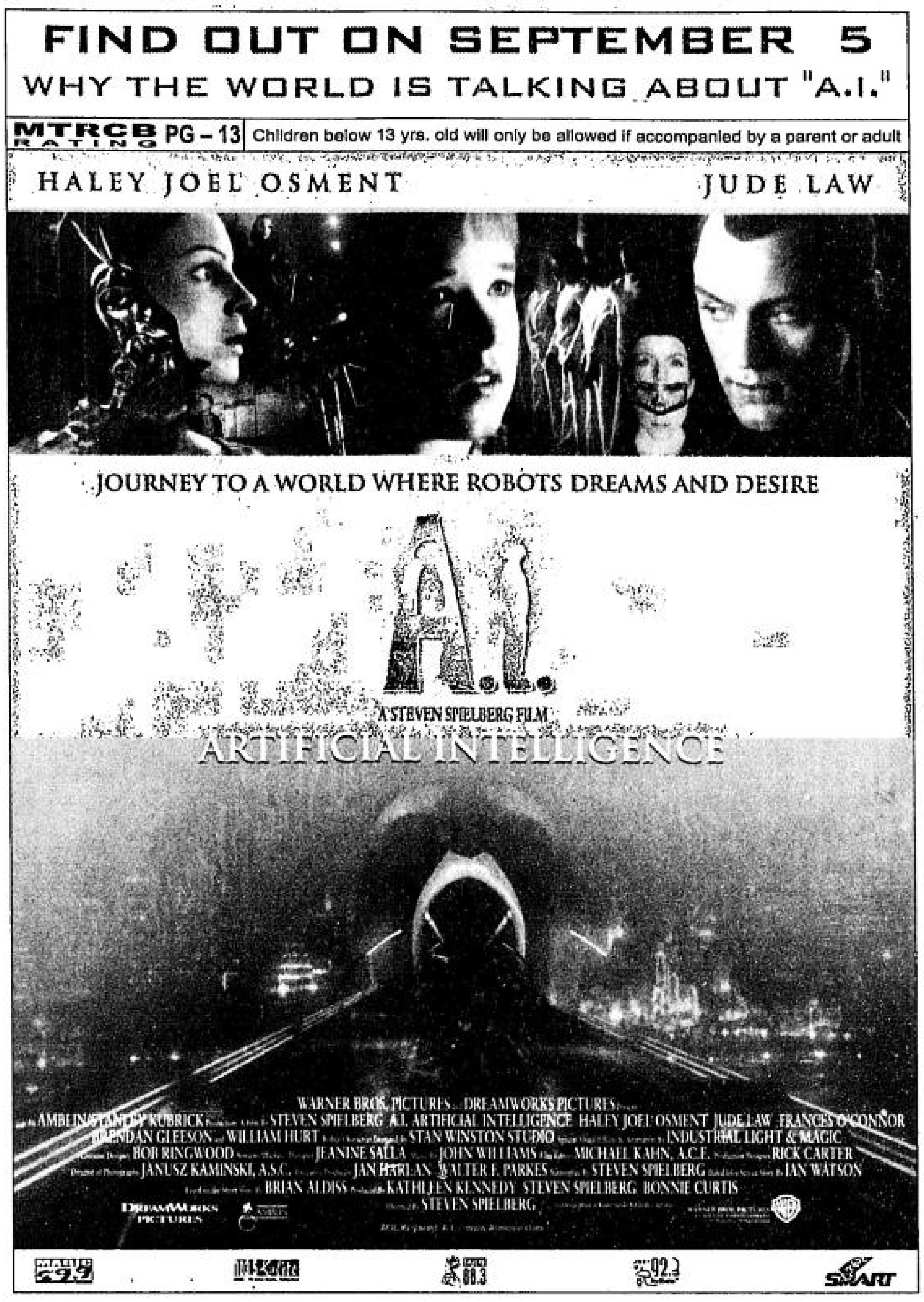
Appetizers come under "foreplay," the main dishes fall under "inter-course." She made me try one of Eros' most popular dishes, The Eros Orgy. It consisted of all things *inihaw*, namely *sugpo, pusit, liempo* and tuna belly. It was very good.

The medley of foods meant you'd have lots to share with the *barkada*, and the portions were very generous that a group of four would be very satisfied. Sometimes when ordering *inihaw*, the food tends to be bland without the dipping sauces.

In Eros, their *inihaw* was very flavorful and cooked just right, not underdone or overly cooked which has a tendency to make the food, especially the squid, rubbery.

I really don't enjoy alcoholic beverages, but Jean made me try their Eros Iced Tea. It was reddish in color and spiked with something, but it was really refreshing. I didn't dare finish the whole glass since I had another taping afterward, and my director said to take it

'BULALO'/ A30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WHY THE WORLD IS TALKING ABOUT "A.I."
MTRCB RATING PG – 13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
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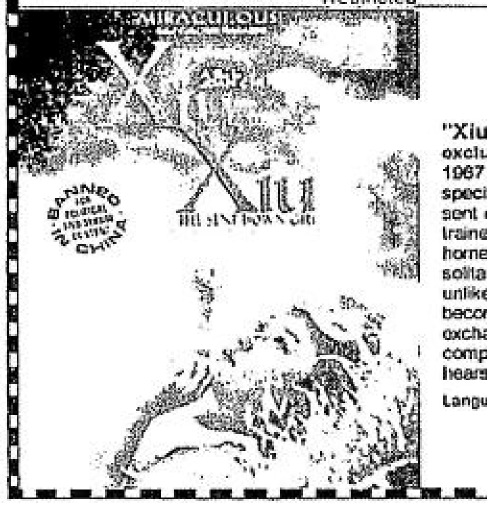
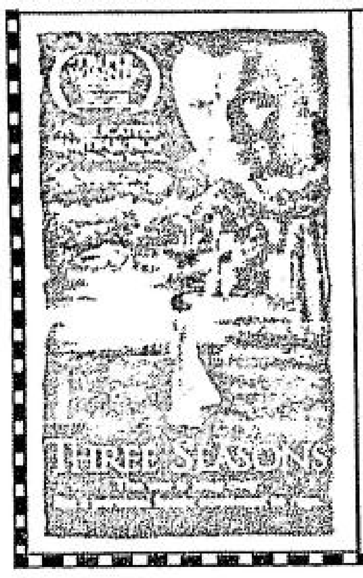

ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
OPENS AUG. 29 (WED.)
AYALA CINEMAS
Art Film
MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted
STRICTLY FOR ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
EXTREMELY MOVING & OUSTANDING FILM
BANNED IN CHINA
FOR POLITICAL & SEXUAL CONTENT
"Xiu Xiu: The Sent Down Girl" is a powerful love story w/c is exclusively shown at ARTFILM of Glorietta 4 cinemas. Between 1967 and 1976, nearly 8 million Chinese youths were "sent down" for specialized training to the remotest corners of the country. Before being sent down, the young and beautiful Xiu Xiu dreams of becoming a horse trainer in the wide open plains of Tibet, far away from her busy city home. Her journey begins in a training camp in the isolated plains with a solitary and mysterious man. Slowly, Xiu Xiu discovers that she is unlikely to ever see her home again without a wealthy sponsor. Her world becomes a horrifying cage, where "patrons" promise her escape in exchange for her sexual compromise. This is one girl's story and a compassionate deed that inspired one special man and everyone who hears her tale
Language: Mandarin with English subtitles
WINNER!
Jury Award, 1998 Ft. Lauderdale International Film Festival;
7 Golden Horses (The "Oscars of Taiwan")


ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
COMING SOON!
AYALA CINEMAS
Art Film
PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
TRIPLE WINNER!
SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL
Audience Award: Dramatic
Cinematography Award: Dramatic & Grand Jury Prize: Dramatic
THREE SEASONS
Starring: Harvey Keitel, Lola Ai Guimond, Don Duong & Nguyen Ngoc Hiop
Three Seasons tells three tangentially related stories: a romance between a forward-thinking prostitute and a cyclo driver; a street kid who loses his case of cheap trinkets; and a student of a reclusive teacher/poet who has lost his fingers to leprosy. Each of the stories is quite simple, but together they create a complex, layered experience of a country simultaneously caught up in its own past, present and future.
Vietnamese-American Bui's film has the distinction of being the first American production to shoot in Vietnam since the War.A cinematic poem that works more as a reflective mood piece than a traditional story, Bui's lyrical script and Rinzler's magical camera work combine to create an original, lasting motion picture.
Language: Vietnamese w/ English sub-titles

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RUSH HOUR 2
JACKY CHAN CHRIS TUCKER
PG 13
STARTING AUGUST 29, 2001
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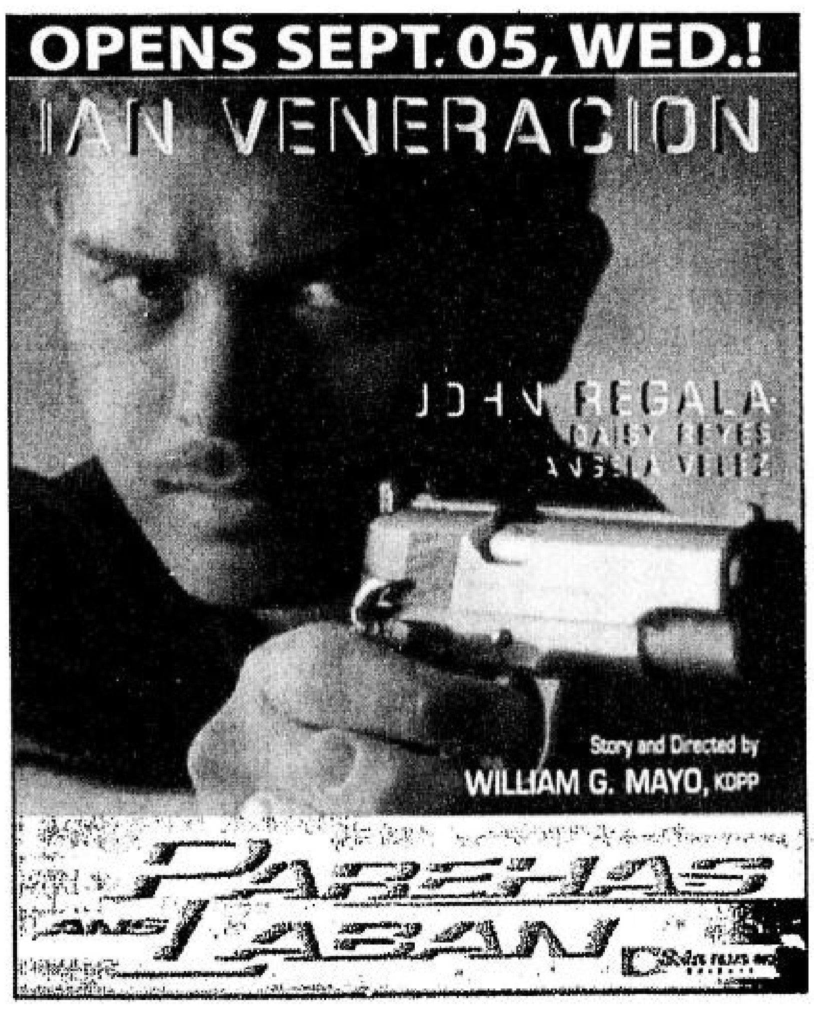
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BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN - GP 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	MOULIN ROUGE - P 13 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	PLANET OF HE APES - P 13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

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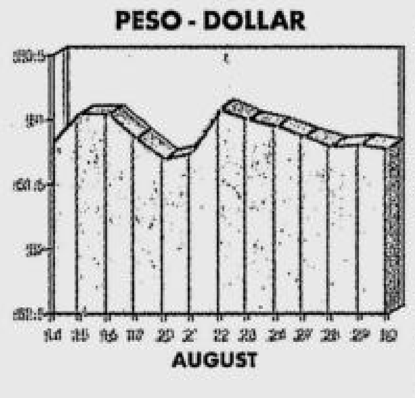

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As of 5 p.m.,
August 30, 2001

¥ 119.74 = $1

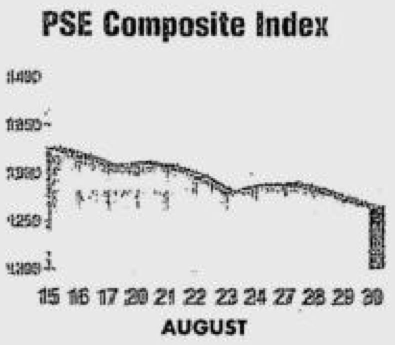
As of 5 p.m.,
August 30, 2001

GOLD:$273.10/273.60

per ounce Hong Kong,
August 30, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Stocks hit 10-month low



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES fell to a further 10-month low yesterday, shrugging off stronger-than-expected second quarter GDP figures, as weak foreign markets played on local nerves, traders said.

Wall Street on Wednesday slumped by more than one percent while Tokyo's main stock index touched fresh 17-year lows.

Traders said while the 3.3 percent year-on-year rise in second-quarter GDP, which was above government and analysts' forecasts, was welcome, the growth had yet to clearly filter through to an uptick in people's income.

"The numbers are good but I guess people want to feel it in their pockets first," Eagle Equities president Joey Roxas said.

All Asia Asset Management portfolio manager Albert Chua said there may have been some skepticism about the data given the size of the uptick as well as the sharp upward revision to the first-quarter figure.

He added that many players remain unconvinced that growth can be sustained going forward, given the gloomy outlook for the American economy and continued political and peace and order issues at home.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. led the main index down, closing at a new eight-year low of P490, down P25, or 4.85 percent on top turnover of P95.18 million.

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE GOVERNMENT has approved two major infrastructure projects worth P17.26 billion—a new airport expressway and a Fort Bonifacio cyberpark—for possible inclusion in the special yen loan package from Japan.

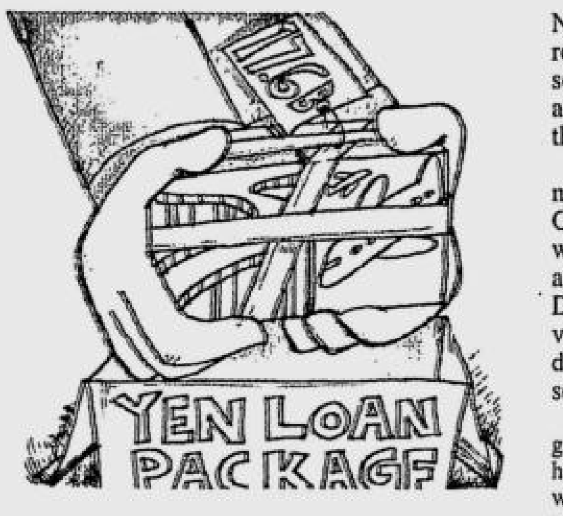
This was announced yesterday by the National Economic and Development Authority, the lead agency of the government's Investment Coordination Committee that screens the projects for official development assistance (ODA).

The first project is the P9.76-billion Manila International Airport access improvement project.

This two-phase project involves the construction of a 6.2-kilometer elevated structure, which will provide an alternative expressway linking Fort Bonifacio and Naia Terminals 1,2 and 3, and end at Roxas Boulevard.

In case ODA is not available for the second phase of the project, the Department of Public Works and Highways may choose to allow private sector participation.

Public Works undersecretary Teodoro Encarnacion said the construction of the alternative access road was in anticipation of projected heavier traffic in the area with the completion of Naia Terminal 3 by December next year.



The third Naia terminal will be used as the main passenger terminal for international flights on top of the existing terminal 1 and the Centennial Airport terminal.

The first phase of the project will involve the construction of a 1-kilometer road linking Fort Bonifacio to Sales Road from the Skyway/Nichols interchange and another 1.8-kilometer road linking Sales Road to Naia Terminal 3. The second phase will link Naia 3 to Naia 1 and 2 by a 2.5-kilometer road, which will likewise link these terminals tò Boulevard 2000.

The second project is a $150-million information technology park proposed by the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) within Fort Bonifacio. The project will use an area originally intended for a golf course. Dubbed the Philippine IT project, the new development will consist of an e-governance and data center, IT incubation and training center, e-services center and allied facilities.

"The IT park is expected to encourage further growth and development of ICT in the country by helping stimulate investments and enterprise in software and digital content development; incubate start-up ICT firms by providing direct marketing, legal and operating assistance to IT entrepreneurs and professionals, and provide a central facility for the development of priority ICT application systems," the Neda said in a statement.

According to the BCDA, the Philippine IT park project, unlike other private IT parks, would not venture into property development but instead provide the needed facilities of an incubation center for the government and the private sector at a lower cost.

BSP keeps interest rates unchanged

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE POLICY-MAKING Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday kept overnight rates as well as the banks' reserve requirement unchanged given the better-than-expected economic growth performance in the second quarter.

"Since we are still in a growth mode, the Board decided to keep the environment stable and thus we kept the overnight rates and the reserve requirement unchanged," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

The overnight borrowing and lending rates were maintained at 9 percent and 11.25 percent while the commercial banks' reserve requirement on deposits and deposit substitutes was kept at 20 percent.

Buenaventura explained that the current level of mandated reserve could accommodate a growth in gross domestic product of up to 3.4 percent. The second quarter GDP grew by 3.3 percent.

"The level of liquidity is consistent with growth. There is no need to mop up (excess liquidity) but neither did we see the need to reduce it because there is still sufficient liquidity in the system," he said.

The BSP governor pointed out that if GDP growth in the third quarter would improve, for instance, to 3.7 percent, then the Monetary Board would have to look at money supply and see whether there would be room to reduce the reserve requirement.

The central bank governor welcomed the better-than-expected economic performance in the second quarter, saying this had given local monetary authorities more flexibility to cut overnight rates in the future.

The improved economic picture in the second quarter should also be positive for the peso as it would boost confidence in the economy, he said.

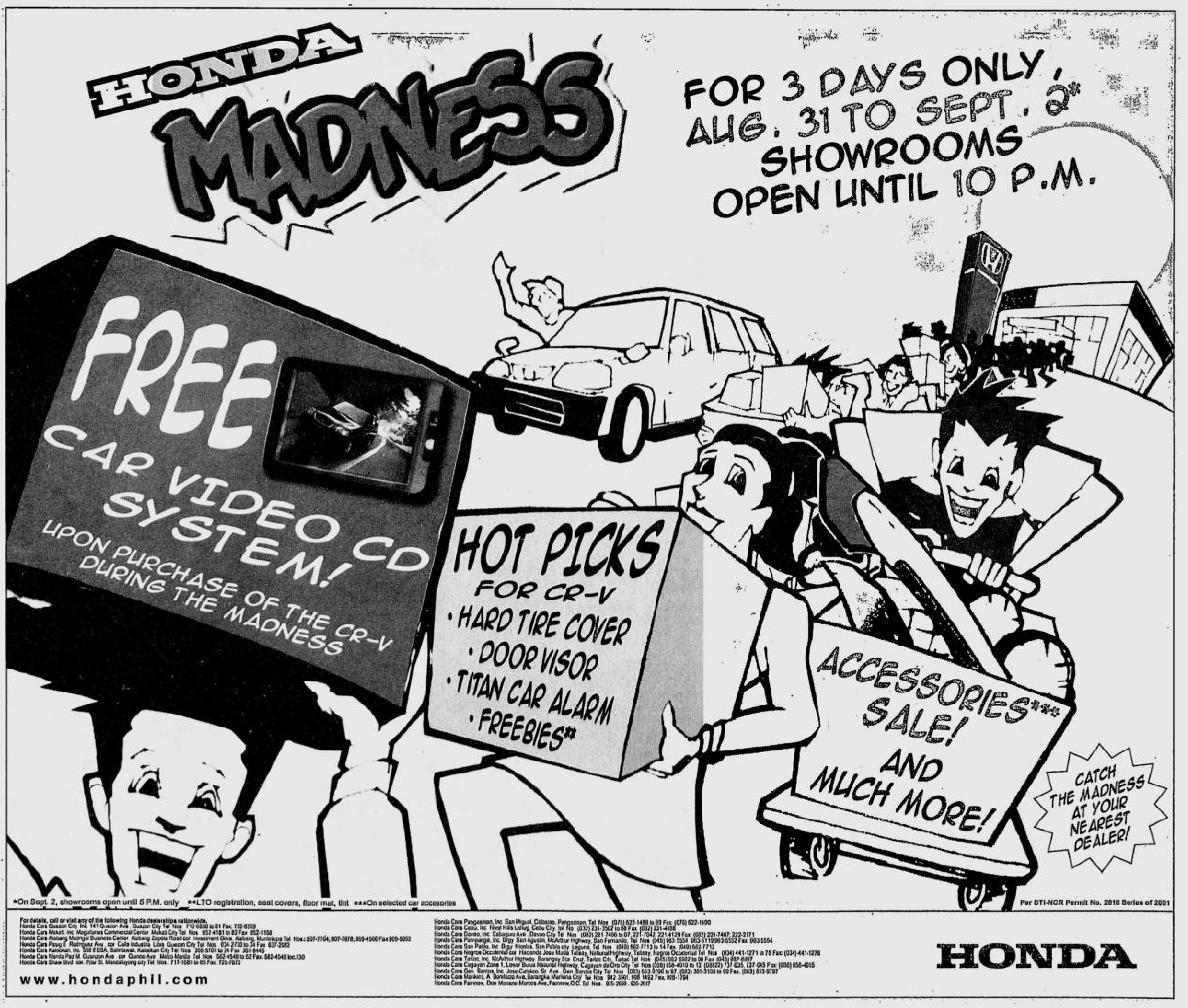
Buenaventura said that from now until the year ends, the Monetary Board may bring down overnight rates by a quarter of a percentage point particularly if the US Federal Reserve will bring down its own interest rates further within the year.

While the BSP has reduced its overnight rates by half-a-percentage point nine times this year, the US Fed has cut its rates on seven occasions, with the reductions ranging from half to a quarter of a percentage point to the current rate of 3.5 percent.

"The GDP growth will improve our chances to cut rates specially if the US Fed will cut its own rates," he said.

The financial markets have been uneasy in recent weeks over the possibility that the central bank will either raise overnight rates or the banks' reserve requirement to further mop up excess money in the system suspected of being used to speculate on the peso.

The central bank has raised the reserve requirement twice to 20 percent to siphon off about P55 billion in excess money from the system.



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IT school drops backdoor listing plan

By Doris C. Dumlao

LEADING information technology school Systems Technology Institute is no longer pushing through with a share-swap deal with listed Global Equities Inc. that would have paved the way for its backdoor listing on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Instead, STI has mapped out an aggressive expansion plan that would eventually lead to an initial public offering on its own within the next two years. The plan will jumpstart with an increase in its capital base to P1 billion from P400 million.

"These funds will enable us to strengthen the existing school network, provide the IT backbone for other key strategic initiatives and build up operations for global expansion," STI president Chito Salazar said in a press briefing yesterday.

He said the company was raising capital from existing shareholders as well as from new investors this year in order to embark on new projects, including the establishment of a university within the Sta. Mesa area and another college catering to the AB or higher income segment in Makati.

He also said that STI was planning to put up more schools abroad, either through wholly owned units or franchising deals.

"We've just signed an agreement in Pakistan and we are now negotiating in Bangladesh, China, Vietnam and there's also a proposal for us to open in Japan," Salazar said.

From less than a thousand students when the company was established in 1983, STI's enrolment has grown to more than 80,000 students at present. It has an existing network of 110 schools, including some offshore units, which cater to the Filipino community in Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Salazar added that STI would start offering multilingual courses in its offshore units to attract non-Filipino students.

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(As of Thursday, Aug. 30, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	5,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	62.5	63	62.5	62.5	36,800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	31	31	31	31	38,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	200	202	200	201	75,790
Philippine National Bank	52.5	53	52.5	53	578,300
Phil. Savings Bank	28	29	28	29	1,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1510	1510	1510	1510	40
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.54	240,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1220	1225	1220	1225	2,350
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	33.5	33.5	33	33	17,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	200,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	640	645	630	640	760
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	250,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	500	500	480	490	144,070
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.031	6,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	32	32	31.5	31.5	30,000
Manila Electric Co. B	44	44	44	44	550,900
Petron Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	1,063,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	310,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	30,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.9	1.9	1.88	1.88	820,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.33	0.33	510,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.16	1.2	519,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	347,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13	36,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	26	26	26	26	95,800
Pure Foods Corp. A	124	124	124	124	4,210
RFM Corp.	2.08	2.12	2.08	2.12	343,000
San Miguel Corp. A	40	40.5	40	40	327,500
San Miguel Corp. B	55	55.5	55	55	217,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.36	0.5	0.36	0.5	420,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.64	0.65	0.64	0.65	20,000
Ayala Corp.	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.5	4,810,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	30,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.91	0.84	0.89	450,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	110,000,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.88	1.94	1.5	1.8	6,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.16	0.2	0.16	0.2	150,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	178,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.6	2,813,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	200,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	80,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.115	0.115	2,030,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	150,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	30	30	29.5	30	344,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	1,210,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	1,260,000
Ionics Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
Ipeople Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	70,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.84	1.8	1.84	52,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings B	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.017	0.017	0.015	0.015	3,000,000
Medco Holdings	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	300,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.68	0.69	1,900,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	260,000
Music Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.24	1.24	249,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.46	0.46	690,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	40,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	54,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	510,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	350,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.75	0.79	0.75	0.75	720,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	20,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.53	0.53	170,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	50,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	30,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	980,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	27	27	27	27	1,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
Abs-Cbn Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	33	33.5	33	33.5	600,700
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref.	11	11	11	11	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,300
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.012	0.012	0.01	0.011	56,500,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.75	4.75	4.65	4.65	7,272,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	500,000
Cityland Development Corp.	3	3	3	3	11,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,400,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	20,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.36	0.37	6,190,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.26	4,910,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.8	1.8	3,524,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
City & Land Developers	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	30,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	90,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
Primex Corp.	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	20,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	25,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	500,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6	5.9	6	10,870,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,100,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	20,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	13,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	9,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	70,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.042	0.042	0.04	0.04	8,400,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0032	0.0032	13,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	10,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.019	3,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	620,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	5,200,000
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0044	0.0042	0.0044	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	9,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	190,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	130,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	978,280	52,408,950.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	203,718,840	232,372,235.00
PRO	36,522,000	109,691,620.00
Mining	57,390,000	966,600.00
OIL	20,570,000	239,400.00
GRAND TOTALS:	319,189,120	395,708,805.00

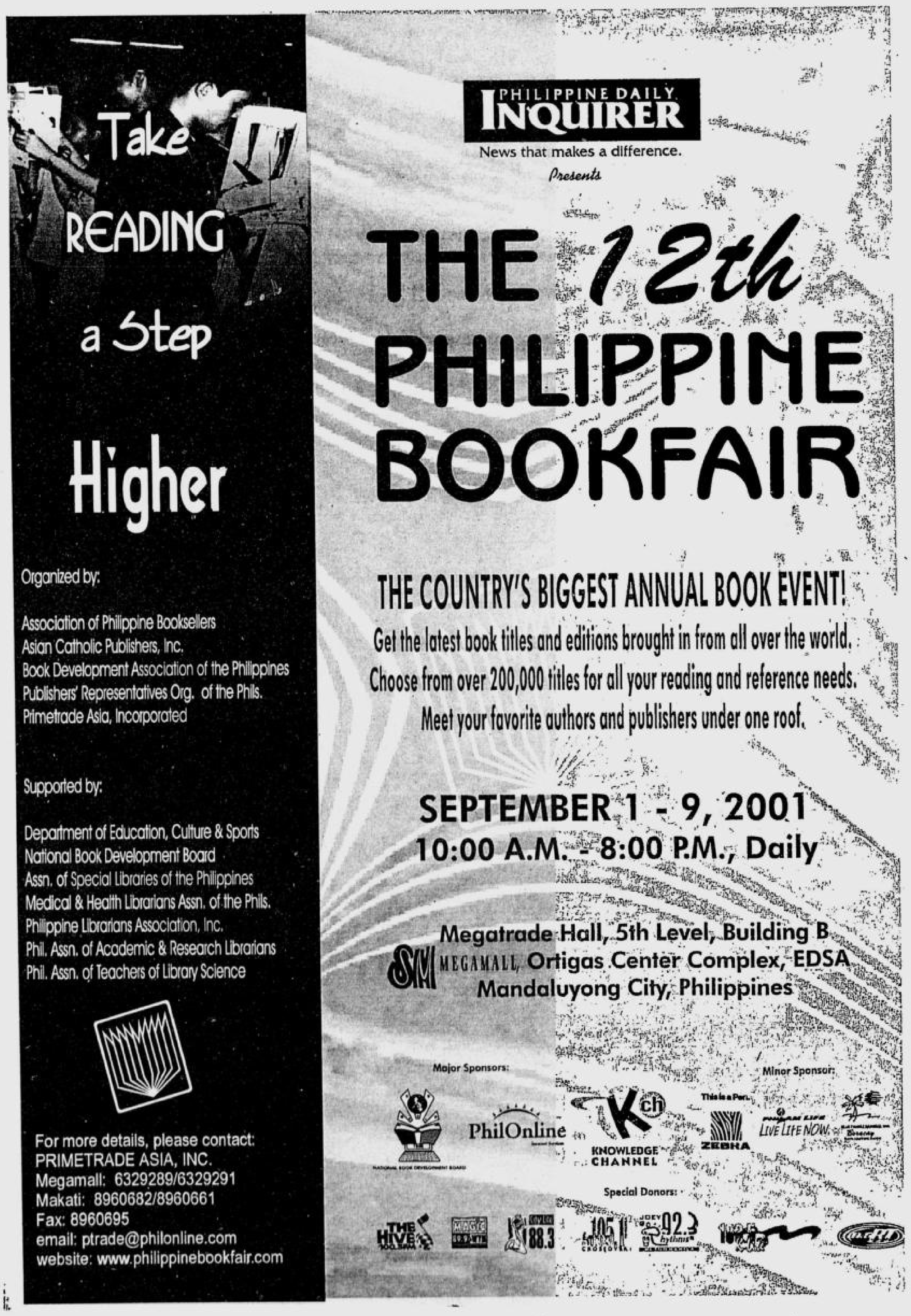
	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	528.64	UP 0.75
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,787.28	DOWN 13.59
PRO	483.37	DOWN 6.36
Mining	1,212.87	DOWN 10.66
OIL	1.50	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	774.78	DOWN 2.50
Composite	1,262.91	DOWN 7.66

NO. OF ADVANCES: 20; NO. OF DECLINES: 51; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 44; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 115; NO. OF TRADES: 1,833

CURRENCIES

Aug. 30, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.099143	1.000000	51.2070
Japan	Yen	0.009147	0.008322	0.4261
United Kingdom	Pound	1.594966	1.451100	74.3065
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.140919	0.128208	6.5651
Switzerland	Franc	0.658918	0.599484	30.6978
Canada	Dollar	0.711143	0.646998	33.1308
Singapore	Dollar	0.628621	0.571919	29.2863
Australia	Dollar	0.582204	0.529689	27.1238
Bahrain	Dinar	2.915653	2.652661	135.8348
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.293081	0.266645	13.6541
Brunei	Dollar	0.625757	0.569314	29.1529
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000120	0.000109	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.024867	0.022624	1.1585
UAE	Dirham	0.299331	0.272331	13.9453
Korea	Won	0.000864	0.000786	0.0402
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.909800	46.5881
Germany	Mark	0.511291	0.465173	23.8201
France	Franc	0.152450	0.138698	7.1023
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.412849	21.1408
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066118	3.3857
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022553	1.1549
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000470	0.0241
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.153017	7.8355
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004538	0.2324
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005468	0.2800
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022553	1.1549
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.155208	59.1547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COCKTALES

Jesuitical Opus Dei

By Victor C. Agustin

MY, the Opus Dei can be jesuitical if they elect to.

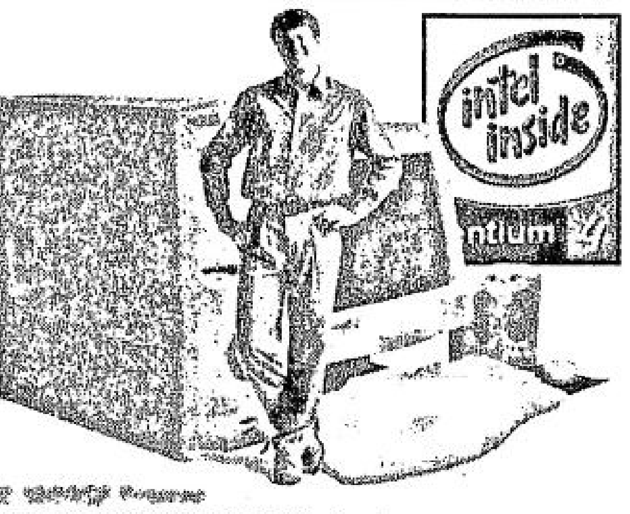
The half-page ad placed by the "PAREF-Northfield School" Wednesday said a Marcos decree allows for the development of a "community park with a school" to justify their conversion of the vacant lot beside the Christ the King Church in Greenmeadows into a grade and high school despite vigorous opposition from the residents.

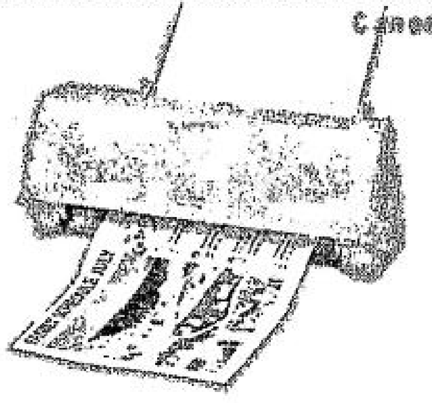
What the ad did not say is that the original Ortigas donation for the property provided for a park, not a "park with a school."

Converting the vacant lot to a "park with a school" is akin to what the Ayalas did in Legaspi and Salcedo villages when the Makati *hacienderos* converted the parks into "car parks."

How big is this undeveloped Greenmeadows park?

COCKTALES/ B4





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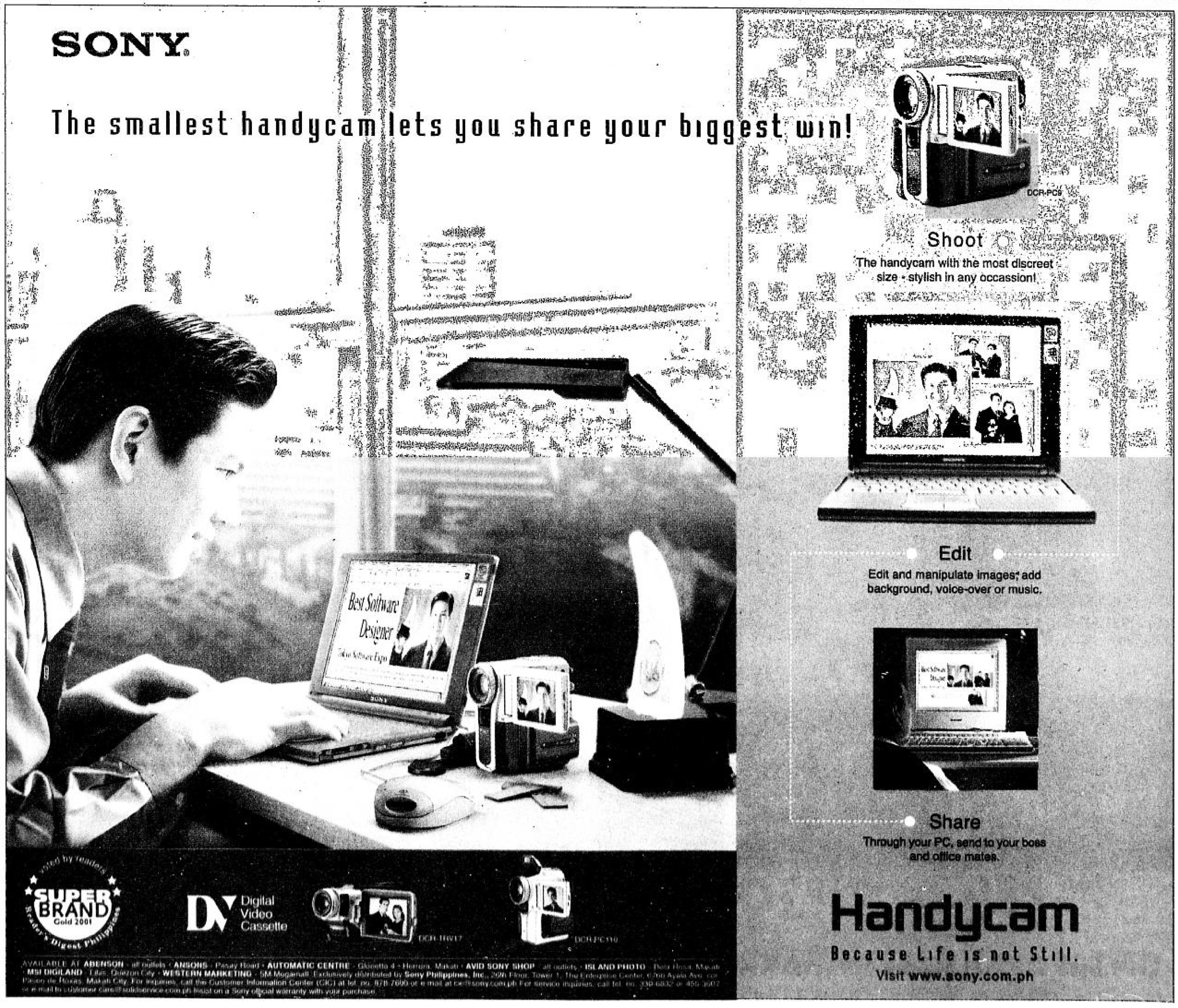

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ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING LAW

BSP says unlikely to meet Sept. 30 deadline

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday that it would ask a powerful Paris-based anti-money laundering group to extend its Sept. 30 deadline.

"We will try to talk to the FATF (Financial Action Task Force), but I am not sure they will agree. They would like to see progress on the bill first," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters.

The FATF, an inter-government agency formed by the Group of Seven industrialized nations, has given the Philippines until Sept. 30 this year to pass a law against money laundering.

A multi-agency group created by the Macapagal administration has submitted to Congress a bill that seeks to ease restrictions set by the country's bank secrecy law. With only a few weeks left, however, it is unlikely that Congress will approve the bill before Sept. 30.

Buenaventura said the central bank would ask the FATF to give the Philippines more time to work on an anti-money laundering law.

The FATF has threatened to slap sanctions if the Philippines fails to set in motion measures designed to check the illegal recycling of money made from illegal arms sales, smuggling, drug trafficking, prostitution, embezzlement, insider trading, bribery, computer fraud, corruption, and other illegal sources.

Buenaventura has warned that the Philippines runs the risks of exposing its banks to "unnecessary scrutiny" and a breach in confidentiality if it fails to meet the FATF's deadline.

"Without (an anti-money laundering) law, we run the risk of increasing the exposure of most, if not all, of our foreign exchange transactions to unnecessary scrutiny," Buenaventura told members of three of the country's biggest Filipino-Chinese business groups.

He said the country would also face "additional sanctions" that could serve as "a potential disincentive for investment in and business with Philippine companies."

The Philippines will face "adverse advisories" that may prevent international banks and financial institutions from doing business with companies here, he said.

These advisories "will create a bias, encouraging international banks to take caution when handling any Philippine-based transactions," he said.

"This means that your normal business transactions mav be considered or treated as possibly suspicious, in many cases discouraging foreign parties from investing or doing business with Philippine companies," Buenaventura told members of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Chinese-Filipino Business Club, and Filipino-Chinese General Chambers of Commerce.

He added that apart from "adverse advisories," another consequence of the absence of an anti-money laundering law would be "an increased risk of a breach in the confidentiality of deposit accounts."

Inclusion in the FATF's blacklist "means foreign banks can require absolute and general waivers on account ownership confidentiality before accepting transactions for processing," he said.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the central bank, in seeking an extension, would try to convince the FATF that Congress would act swiftly on the proposed anti-money laundering law.

"It will help our appeal if we can show concrete measures and that the bill was not only filed but had passed through several reading in Congress," he said.

A bill is pending in Congress that expands on the exemptions provided under the bank secrecy law.

The bank secrecy law will still be in effect, but the anti-money laundering bill seeks to relax some provisions that have prevented the government from checking the recycling of profits from illegal arms sales, smuggling, drug trafficking, prostitution, embezzlement, insider trading, bribery, computer fraud and other illegal sources.

It adds new legal grounds for deposits to be subjected to investigation. It specifically seeks to break the absolute confidentiality given to foreign exchange deposits through a presidential decree issued by the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

A critical provision of the bill is the "threshold" that will trigger an investigation.

The existing bill exempts transactions worth less than P500,000. Some lawmakers want this threshold raised to P5 million.

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Eastern sets sight on oil refiners abroad

By Ronnel W. Domingo

OIL industry newcomer Eastern Petroleum Corp. is training its sight on overseas refiners as local refineries cannot accommodate the crude that it will secure from Iraq through the United Nation's oil-for-food program.

"We found out that the refinery (Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.) is not configured to process the type of crude that Iraq produces," Eastern chair Fernando Martinez said in a telephone interview.

Earlier, Martinez said Eastern was in talks with Pilipinas Shell for a possible lease processing agreement.

Before that, he said Eastern scrapped its plan to tap Petron Corp. because the country's largest refiner was already getting crude from Saudi Aramco.

"I think there would be a conflict in (Petron's) part if Eastern would import crude from Iraq," the official said.

Saudi Aramco owns 40 percent of Petron, which is equal to the government's share through Philippine National Oil Co.

Instead, Martinez said they would be seeking a deal with overseas refiners within the region.

"We have had initial discussions with Caltex's Singapore refinery and we are also looking at others in Thailand and Taiwan," he said.

Martinez explained that Eastern was expecting an allocation of about a million barrels per month from the government of Iraq, but that a decision has not been made.

"If negotiations (with Iraq) go smoothly, we could get the crude as early as November," he said.

Martinez, who is also president of the New Petroleum Players Association, said a successful deal would allow Eastern to sell finished products to other local small players.

Cocktales

(From page B3)

Exactly 3.1 hectares.

By PAREF-Northfield's admission, 57 percent of the property, 1.767 hectares to be exact, would be kept as "park" in the proposed redevelopment.

But, wait a minute, that park is defined by the Opus Dei owners of the school not as a tree-studded open space as we commonly know it but as "park and sports facilities" to include—we are not kidding—"football field, multi-purpose gym, playground, homeowners' association office."

Not counting the spectators' benches, the football field alone has a footprint of already over a hectare.

How will you now squeeze in a football field, a multi-purpose gym, a playground, and an office in a 1.767-hectare "park"?

Just like asking how many angels can stand on a pin's head.

All that Pop and Jaz

REP. Augusto Syjuco Jr.'s sister is the mother of Jose Concepcion III's brother-in-law, Paolo S. Santos, Santos being married to Joey's sister Lisa.

So why can't the two related heads of homegrown cola companies talk their differences out-of-court and, instead of bashing each other's head, pummel the foreign competition instead?

But that is like asking why the Garcia brothers, the Aguirres, the Ilusorios, and, yes, Ting-ting Cojuangco and her mother have to resort to court and the police/armed goons to settle what normally would have been settled over dinner at the family table.

Going back to the cola fight, proving as to who owes what to whom should be a fairly cut-and-dry exercise, a matter of documentation. Carpio Villaraza, incidentally, is representing Syjuco in the court case, while Accra, the Concepcions.

The civil case has just barely finished the preliminary skirmishes but already the lawyers, judging from the amount being asked, are looking forward to popping open not a Cosmos but a champagne bottle come Christmastime.

The congressman and the socialite III

IF YOU still have not guessed the identity of the congressman and the socialite we referred to in Monday's column, your best bet is to ask Ting-ting Cojuangco or corporate lawyers Lorna Kapunan and Victoria de los Reyes.

The three ladies move about in the proper circles and should know the two lovers well enough.

And depending on his mood, you also just might be able to wiggle a few snippets from new Bulacan Rep. Wilfrido Villarama.

Heard through the grapevine

THE NEW vacation home of Erap Transportation Secretary Vicente C. Rivera in California is at 3731 Armour Court in Fremont, an upscale city on the eastern shore of the San Francisco Bay. In addition to 49 parks, Fremont boasts of a lake, Lake Elizabeth, located right in the heart of the city.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Labor issues for the Bar

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

AMONG the 5,000 or so who'll be tackling the 2001 Bar exams starting this coming Sunday are human resources managers, labor leaders, trade union organizers, employees and employers. What they perhaps lack in academic preparations are correspondingly compensated by their long immersion in labor relations.

As a Bar reviewer, law professor and corporate executive handling HR, labor relations and legal, my views are often sought on the question of which, among the thousand topics in labor law, should a Bar examinee focus on. Labor law is so wide in scope and too dynamic in changes.

The top 10 topics

Thus, I should enjoin them to concentrate on the following critical 10 areas: recruitment and employment status, wages and benefits, special workers like women and minors, union, collective bargaining, unfair labor practices, strikes, employee dismissals, labor procedures and remedies.

The secret of mastery is the ability to segregate the most important topics from all the rest. There is not much time, every minute counts. And the examinees should focus on the critical few and never squander the vital minutes on the trivial many.

Recruitment and employment

One should master the principles, cases and doctrines on illegal recruitment—the nuances and ramifications, the rules and exceptions. Then, there must be full knowledge on the elements of the employer-employee relationship, the controlling precedents and authorities.

The status of employment—whether regular, casual or probationary, seasonal or contractual—should be mastered too, as well as labor-only contracting in contrast to legitimate contracting, the liabilities of both the principals and the agencies, and the leading cases on these.

Wages and benefits

With another wage order about to be issued, a question or two about wage formulation and wage administration would be apropos. Wage distortions and the manner of corrections, the case involving the International School on the principle of "equal pay for equal work" and the effects of discrimination—all these are apt.

Questions on disability, sickness and death related to one's work, 13th month pay, commissions, holiday pay, rest day premium, overtime and night differential, as well as issues on creditability vis-à-vis CBAs and wage orders should be reviewed.

Women and minors

With a female President, a female labor secretary, three ladies in the Supreme Court, and three in the Senate, questions on discrimination against women in the workplace are expected. Sexual harassment and related offenses may be timely.

Also timely is the issue on the minors and the handicapped employed on contract by Far East Bank whom the latter called casuals and the Supreme Court called regular employees. Innovations in the workplace like the hourly pay systems for student-employees working in McDonalds, Jollibee, KFC, and Wendy's should also be looked into.

Union and bargaining

The case of the UST faculty union is a very appropriate topic to ask on intra-union disputes, the one involving Meralco's collective bargaining is critical too, especially as it tackled Article 253-A of the Labor Code.

Cases of union busting, discriminations, coercion, featherbedding and yellow dog contracts, as well as refusal to negotiate and violations to bargaining rules, all these are pertinent issues of the day.

ULP and strikes

It is imperative to fully grasp the concept of unfair labor practice, master its implications and pinpoint the situs and level of liabilities. It is essential to know the specific acts of ULP, its level of gravity and the corresponding penalty.

Strikes issues are timely. Examinees should know the nature, elements, grounds for, procedures and periods to be observed in staging legal strikes as well as the circumstances that make strikes illegal, the remedies and penalties therefore and the persons liable.

Dismissals and separations

The examiners should master Book Six of the Labor Code, composed only of 10 extremely vital articles. They should memorize the just and authorized causes, the due process.

They should memorize the rulings in the cases of Isetann, Wenphil, Greenfields and Mercury Drug. They should learn by heart the ruling on the controversial North Davao Mining case that exempted companies from paying separation pay if their closure were due to serious financial difficulties.

Labor procedures and remedies

Also important is jurisdiction. The examinees should master the mechanics of compulsory arbitration, voluntary arbitration, mediation, conciliation and labor standards inspection and administration.

As to remedies, one should master the latest principles on reinstatement pending appeal, enunciated in the Pioneer Texturizing case, the latest on full backwages via the ruling in Osmalik Bustamante and the triad of procedural pronouncements in St. Martin Funeral, NFL and Luzon Development Bank.

Logic and language

Apart from the content, the Bar examinees' chances to pass are also influenced by their logical thinking and reasoning, using the law as the major premise, the facts as the minor premise and the drawing of conclusion that responds directly to the premises.

Finally, one's power of expression, his command of the language, his penmanship and neatness, his examiner-friendly and persuasive words, the firmness of his views tempered only by the grace of his language. These are the ingredients of success in the Bar.

Relevant labor issues

The OFWs, the wage issue, retrenchments, redundancies and rightsizing. Unions, strikes, collective bargaining and arbitration—these are the relevant issues of today. If we were the examiners, these are the questions we would ask.

Thus, our future lawyers should be armed not only with academic excellence but also with experiential wisdom on the day-to-day events and the realities of life in which they are immersed.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph)

US insurer sets up RP subsidiary

By ELENA R. TORRIJOS

NEW York Life Insurance Co., one of the largest life insurance companies in the United States, recently launched its life insurance operations in the Philippines with the establishment of New York Life Insurance (Phils.) Inc.

A wholly owned subsidiary of the group's overseas arm, New York Life International, New York Life (Phils.) starts operations with a capital base of P300 million, 150 agents and a head office in Makati.

New York Life (Phils.) president and chief executive George May said the foreign group would be investing an additional $25 million to expand its business here over the next 10 years.

Before yearend, May said the local unit would set up a second and, possibly, a third office in Metro Manila, Cebu or Davao.

The company, the 42nd life insurer in the country, plans to introduce 35 products designed to provide Filipino customers with flexible payment and dividend earnings options.

May said the products would be distributed initially through a corps of highly trained professional agents but that the company was also thinking of using various channels of distribution, including tying up with financial institutions.

New York Life International chair and chief executive Gary Benanav said, "Our decision to enter the Philippine market is based on our belief in the industrious Filipino people and the viability of the Filipino economy in the long term."

Aside from the Philippines, New York Life International also offers insurance products through subsidiaries and affiliates in Argentina, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Mexico, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand.

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Other models available: 325iA Coupe, 325iA Touring, 325iA Convertible, Z3 Roadster, Z3 Coupe, X5, 735il

MODEL	SRP	DOWNPAYMENT	TERMS	MONTHLY PAYMENT
BMW 316i	1,545,000.00	540,750.00 (35%)	48 mos.	25,000.00

Compared to other 2.0+ models:

MODEL	SRP	DOWNPAYMENT	TERMS	MONTHLY PAYMENT
**Brand HA 2.0	1,098,000.00	549,000.00 (50%)	24 mos.	28,226.00
**Brand MG 2.0	1,130,000.00	565,000.00 (50%)	24 mos.	28,633.00
**Brand TC 2.2	1,405,000.00	562,000.00 (40%)	36 mos.	31,824.00
**Brand NC 2.0	1,610,000.00	563,500.00 (35%)	48 mos.	31,992.00

** Estimates based on existing quotations

MODEL	SRP	DEPOSIT (35%)	TERMS (MOS.)	MONTHLY PAYMENT
318iA	1,975,000.00	691,250.00	48	30,000.00
318iA Ex.	2,125,000.00	743,750.00	48	35,000.00
325iA	2,550,000.00	892,500.00	48	42,000.00
325iA Ex	2,650,000.00	927,500.00	48	45,000.00
523iA	3,095,000.00	1,083,250.00	48	50,000.00

* Subject to bank approval
Promo period: Aug. 31 to Oct. 31, 2001
Subject to change without prior notice

DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-514 Series of 2001

Prestige Cars. We are BMW.

Twinhead NOTEBOOK COMPUTER Sale!

August 31 to Sept. 2, 2001 at EDP SM Megamall & ABC SM North Edsa / Virramall / Parksquare

PHILIPPINE WOOD PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION
Marks 50th Anniversary

We Plant Trees for the Future

MESSAGES

It is with distinct pleasure that I convey my warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) on its Golden Foundation Anniversary.

I congratulate the PWPA for its continued adherence to professionalism and high service standards. Its achievements through the years have contributed to a better quality of life for our people and a more dynamic business environment in this era of modernization and global competition.

Through the years, the wood industry has made significant contributions to the growth of the Philippine economy. It has provided the necessary materials for housing., construction and furniture. In addition to generating employment and livelihood for our countrymen, it has produced a variety of wooden products that has earned much-needed foreign exchange for our country. I hope this event will inspire the PWPA members to continue their dedication to promote the local wood industry, expand foreign and local trade linkages, and provide greater opportunities for suppliers and traders.

I look forward to the continued active participation of wood suppliers and traders in rebuilding our nation towards greater peace, progress and prosperity.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

My warmest felicitations to the members of ***Philippine Wood Producers Association*** *on their celebration of its Golden Anniversary Foundation and 50th Annual Meeting of Members on August 31, 2001.*

I commend this eminent organization for its unwavering commitment to improve the competitiveness of the country's wood-based industry. Your initiative in assessing the issues besetting the industry and determining the manner to address them is indeed welcome especially in these trying times when the national government needs the support of all sectors of society in confronting the problems of our nation.'

This significant undertaking is indeed a positive step towards the country's survival in this highly competitive global economy. The benefit that the nation will gain will be unfathomable.

I, therefore, exhort the members of this eminent association to be steadfast in all their worthwhile endeavors, as these will indeed redound to the betterment of the society.

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

TEOFISTO T. GUINGONA JR.
Vice-President
Republic of the Philippines

My warmest greetings and congratulations to the Philippine Wood Producers Association on the occasion of its Golden Foundation Anniversary on August 31, 2001 at the Century Park Hotel, City of Manila.

Because of the country's vast forest resources, the wood industry has been considered a prime mover of the Philippine economy. Generations of Filipinos have tremendously benefited from the abundance of wood supply in our lands and forests. In meeting and sustaining not only the household needs but also the requirements of various industries, the wood industry has proved dependable.

But unlike many of our resources, the abundant and steady supply of wood cannot be ensured without caring for, preserving and protecting our forests and woodlands. Responsive and reasonable utilization of wood resources by this generation means so much to the coming generations of Filipinos that deserve as well, the blessings of their God-given wood resources. Indeed, every generation must lend a hand in ensuring the sustainability of our natural resources, including our wood supply.

It is in this light that I commend the country's leaders and players in the wood industry as they put their heads together in this momentous gathering this year in an effort to improve the competitiveness and social and environmental responsiveness of this vital economic activity.

May your golden anniversary celebration be a resounding success!

FRANKLIN M. DRILON
President
Philippine Senate

I convey my best wishes and congratulations to the officers and members of the Philippine Wood Producers Association on the occasion of your Golden Foundation Anniversary on August 31, 2001.

I am pleased that the Association is as active as ever in its thrust of promoting the advancement of the wood industry. This milestone that you have reached signifies organizational strength and sustained relevance. It means that you have succeeded in helping your members respond to and overcome the challenges that have visited the industry over the past fifty years. The wood industry being a crucial sector in the economy, you certainly have contributed much to the country's development.

Your 50th Annual Meeting of Members, I am sure, will again be successful in threshing out key concerns of the industry. Let this event lead to greater understanding and cooperation among your members, and to continued growth of the industry.

We, in the 12th Congress, invite you to work hand-in-hand with us as we strive to achieve our common vision – a truly progressive country and a better life for all Filipinos.

Happy Anniversary and Mabuhay!

JOSE C. DE VENECIA, JR.
Speaker
House of Representative

Congratulations to the ***Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA)*** *on your* ***50th Foundation Day and Annual Convention.***

The PWPA is an indispensable partner of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the protection of our forests. The forest is more than a timber resource – it is a watershed, a carbon sink and a sanctuary for our rich biodiversity. It is an integral part of our life support system.

In the exercise of our guardianship of our precious forest resource, PWPA can be a bulwark of sustainable development "In Pursuit of a New Direction".

Mabuhay kayo!

HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ
Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Our warmest greetings to the ***Philippine Wood Producers Association*** *as it initiates its* ***50th Annual Membership Meeting*** *and celebrates its* ***50th Foundation Anniversary*** *on 31 August 2001 at the Century Park Hotel, Manila under the theme "Helping to Make the Future Green".*

As the voice of the wood industry in the national and international fora, the ***PWPA*** *with its wide-based membership and strong established linkages is at the vantage position to rally all companies involved in forestry and forest products subsectors such as industrial tree plantations, manufacture of wooden panels, pulp and paper and other wood products towards mapping out appropriate and relevant strategies that will enable the sector to meet head-on the emerging challenges of global competition while sustaining the environment.*

One of the Philippine economy's important sectors, the wood industry serves many other major industries such as the construction and construction materials industry, the housing sector, the furniture and home accessories industry, and many other wood-dependent downstream and export oriented industries. As such, it must continue to find ways of making itself cost-efficient and environment-friendly towards ensuring the sustainability of wood supply in the domestic market – which is essential if we are to have the edge to compete in today's borderless world market.

DTI is one with the ***PWPA*** *in promoting efficiency in the management of Philippine forests to bring about the conservation, sustainable development and wise utilization of our forest resources, as well as in accelerating the establishment of forest plantations in order to assure the continuous supply of wood material and enhance our country's ecological balance.*

To the ***PWPA***, *our sincere congratulations and best wishes on your* ***50th Anniversary***, *and we hope to continue and strengthen our partnership with you towards our common purpose of a more prosperous and progressively green Philippines.*

Mabuhay!

MAR ROXAS
Secretary
Department of Trade and Industry

Wood Industry Pursues New Directions To Ensure Wood Supply For Country

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) – the national organization of companies that are engaged in forest management, tree plantation development, manufacture and trading of lumber and plywood, pulp and paper and other wood products – celebrates today its golden year of founding.

Throughout these last 50 years, the PWPA has played an important role in the Philippine wood industry history.

After World War II, all its wood material production was diverted to the reconstruction efforts of the country. From the 1950s to mid-1970s, it was one of four important sources of foreign exchange earnings. Earlier on, its factories rooted themselves in the forest hinterlands, absorbing from all over the country migrant workers and their families who became the nuclei of today's communities and towns. In the absence of public services to these citizens, it was the wood companies, which provided them health care, education and much needed infrastructure.

As the trend towards environmental conservation gained momentum in the mid-1980s, however, the PWPA and its members found themselves at the receiving end of the blame for the deforestation of the country. To the call of environmentalists, the response of government was to tighten regulations on the industry. The export of logs was banned in the mid-1980s; the export of lumber was banned in late 1991; logging was banned in primary forests beginning in early 1990; and forest charges were raised to 25% of the factory gate prices of logs – in addition to the 10% VAT on wood products.

These measures the government called forestry sector policy reform were meant to calm down environmental groups but also served as a part of the solution to the macroeconomic crisis the government was then facing. International financial institutions included forestry measures as conditions on loans and grants. From 1987 to 1994, the number of Timber License Agreement (TLA)-holders decreased from 154 to 31 and timber cut was down from 8 million to 0.878 million cu m.

Today, there are only 8 TLA-holders actively operating with a timber cut of 0.60 million cu m of logs in forest areas of 200,000 hectares (0.7% of the country's land area). As a result, many sawmills are closed, plywood mills are running at below capacity and half of the domestic requirements of the country for wood has to be imported at an average of US$ 160 million a year and, to include pulp, paper and paperboard and waste paper, US$ 500 million.

It is under this challenging policy climate, and under constant threat of a total log ban from Congress, that the wood industry finds itself in. PWPA is determined to pursue new directions to survive and fulfill its vision-mission of ensuring wood supply for intergenerational Filipinos by managing and developing, on a sustainable basis and without blemish to the integrity and functions of the environment, forests and tree plantations as sources of wood materials for the manufacture of affordably-priced products.

To carry the vision-mission out, the following directions are being pursued by the PWPA:

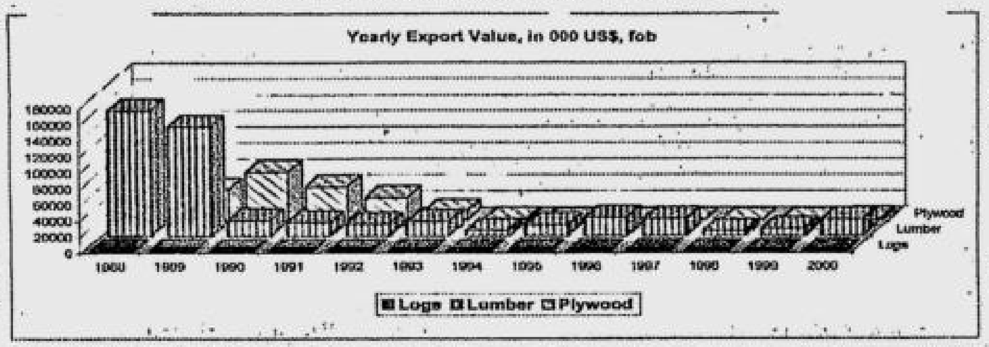
1. Raw material development and security. PWPA requests Congress to pass immediately the Sustainable Management of Forest Resources Act. The Act would provide management and development access to forestlands, ensure the integrity of tenure of joint venture and co-production-sharing agreements, and harness the benefits of incentives. For the time being, the wood industry will maintain the importation of wood and enter into wood processing agreements with log suppliers from abroad. In both cases, the industry asks the government to allow the export of lumber manufactured out of imported logs, an incentive that will open many closed mills.

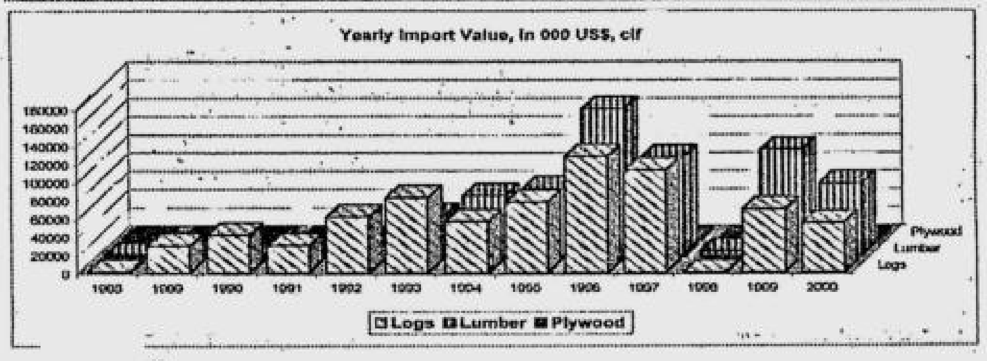
2. Competitive wood production and wood products marketing. The industry will strive for modernization of obsolete sawmills and to venture further into downstream manufacturing of value-added wood products in demand by the domestic and export markets. Environmental requirements and ISO-certification will be complied with. The development of new wood products, especially those needed in mass housing, will be undertaken jointly with appropriate research institutions. It will exert efforts to regain markets for its wood products lost to cheap, substandard, imported ones and energy-consuming substitutes. The industry shall police its own ranks and cooperate closely with government agencies concerned in maintaining mandatory standards and proper prices of its products.

3. Capital formation. Small, private landowners, upland dwellers with Certificates of Stewardship Contracts (CSC), and indigenous peoples with Certificates of Ancestral Land Claims (CALC) lack capital to develop their lands into tree farms. To meet the capital requirements, therefore, the industry will work with government agencies and financial institutions for funding schemes, like securitization and subsidies, to make these idle lands into productive tree plantations. An appropriate incentives plan will be worked out with the Board of Investments to attract domestic and foreign capital both to forestry and wood processing sectors of the wood industry. The members of PWPA, with their track record in tree plantation development, are prepared to guide small tree farmers.

The PWPA, as it looks forward to its next 50 years, is confident that it will meet its vision-mission of ensuring wood supply for Filipinos. With the expected benefits and the assurance of a responsible effort in its pursuit, the PWPA asks the government to look to the same direction and support the industry in this worthwhile endeavor.

Philippine Export and Import of Wood, 1988-2000





Knowing PWPA...

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) is the national association of corporations, partnerships and individuals involved in forest management, forest plantation development, manufacture of lumber, veneer and plywood, pulp and paper and other wood products as well as in trading, shipping and sales of these products.

The vision-mission of PWPA is geared toward both managing the natural forest, establishing tree plantations, and developing the wood-based industry on a productively sustainable basis in order to have them serve their ecological, social and economic ends.

PWPA...Its roots

1934 - The Philippine Hardwood Manufacturers' Association (PHMA) was organized to promote Philippine timber under the nomenclature of Philippine Mahogany in the U.S. and world markets.
1939 - The Philippine Lumber Producers' Association (PLPA) was organized to address issues affecting the domestic lumber industry.
1951 - The PHMA and PLPA were merged, with the latter as survivor association, registered with the SEC to pursue aforementioned objectives.
1952 - The Plywood Manufacturers' Association of the Philippines (PMAP) was organized to encourage the manufacture of plywood and to market same in foreign markets.
1960 - The Philippine Chamber of Wood Industries (PCWI) was organized in order to group together log producers and primary wood processors.
1972 - PLPA and PMAP were merged and took the name Philippine Lumber and Plywood Manufacturers' Association (PLPMA).
1979 - The Philippine Wood Producers Association was organized from the merger of PLPMA and PCWI in order to attain national unity among members in the wood industry.

RI CHEMICAL CORPORATION

FLETCHER CHALLENGE FORESTS

RAUTE WOOD

QUALITY Oils
CALTEX

PHILIPPINE WOOD PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

Golden Anniversary Celebration

Sustainable Forest Management Helps Protect, Renew RP Forests

In an effort to reverse the current critical state of our forests, the Philippines has adopted sustainable forest management as the key strategy for all plans, programs and actions in the forestry sector.

The definition of sustainable forest management was derived from the UNCED Rio Earth Summit of 1992. There was global agreement that the only way to sustain our common future is through "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

The Philippines was one of the first countries to institutionalize a formal scheme for sustainable development when it launched Philippine Agenda 21 in 1996.

A memorandum from the DENR Secretary to the President in 1999 clearly stated its position that sustainable forest management is DENR's official strategy in forest protection, development and conservation. This official position was made to provide a logical framework to all programs and actions in forestry. The strategy allows the continuation of sustainable selective logging in production secondary growth forests and supports a total log ban in protection forests as well as massive forest renewal by way of tree farm and industrial tree plantation establishment.

DENR's policy also calls for the strengthening of the community-based forest management program. The government recognizes that forestry problems cannot be effectively addressed without the direct participation of communities and upland dwellers, who are dependent on the forests.

But while the government has declared its policy on sustainable forest management, the much- awaited legislation is still being deliberated upon in both Houses of Congress. A law on sustainable forest management is vital as it can provide a stable legal basis for forestry development and conservation in the country.

As the voice of the wood industry, PWPA calls on Congress to pass immediately the Sustainable Management of Forest Resources Act, which could be the solution of our current forestry crisis.

MESSAGES

Congratulations to the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) on its Golden Anniversary Celebration. This is the same as celebrating 50 years of continuous commitment to the development of wood-based industries, and the economy as a whole.

Though there are parallels between what the PWPA is now facing and the challenges that began half a century ago when it first started out, the present ones seem more daunting as the economy transitions into recovery.

Despite these, the Association successfully hurdled all challenges, continued to provide reliable service to its members, and at the same time, reinvented itself in this new competitive environment.

PWPA achieved these by building on its many strengths, and capitalizing on its core competencies. These required new ways of doing things, looking at the business environment in a new light, and the fortitude to make mid-course adjustments when needed.

I am pleased that the PWPA did not rest on its laurels. It continues to innovate and live on the cutting edge of fresh and exciting prospects. It continues to build on its record of achievements and given the quality its officers and members will inspire greater achievements.

It is indeed my pleasure to congratulate you on this milestone and contemplate on the history you have made and yet to make.

Congratulations and Mabuhay!

MIGUEL B. VARELA
President
Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry

On behalf of the Federation of Philippine Industries, I take pleasure in congratulating all the officers and members of the Philippine Wood Producers Association as you celebrate your Golden Anniversary and 50th Annual Membership Meeting.

Your existence as a major industry group in the country for 50 long years is a milestone. And with the dynamic changes and paradigm shifts that are taking place, which affect most of us in the manufacturing sector, I welcome your commitment to enhance your industry's competitiveness.

I want to assure you that the FPI is with you in the battle against unfair trade practices, which threaten domestic industries. We will continue our effort to level the playing field so that the wood industry and other industries can grow and thrive.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

ANTONIO M. GARCIA
President
Federation of Philippine Industries, Inc.

The Philippine Business for the Environment greets the PWPA on its 50th anniversary with a fervent wish for its success, particularly in the environment programs it has committed to do as part of the Philippine Business Agenda 21 (BA21).

BA 21 is the industry's voluntary action plan for contributing to sustained development in the 21st century. PWPA was among the first set of industry associations which identified specific steps it will encourage its members to take to address the environmental impacts of quarrying, road building, log preparation and wood processing. These steps include the conducting of seminars, the protection and rehabilitation of forests and adoption of whole-tree utilization practices.

PBE looks forward to supporting and helping to promote PWPA's efforts and leadership in the environmental enhancement and protection of our country's dwindling forest base.

LEO B. ALEJANDRINO
President
Philippine Business for the Environment

On behalf of the Philippine Wood Producers (PWPA), I take pleasure in welcoming all of you to our Golden Foundation Anniversary and 50th Annual Membership Meeting.

To have traversed half a century of existence is in itself an achievement for the Association. For this feat, the honors belong to our predecessors whose determination, dedication and sacrifice have been the bridging elements for the Association to reach this far.

At this point in the life of our Association, we exhort our members to carry on, inspired by the same characters as our predecessors, in pursuit of new directions that will enable our industry to grow and to serve its purposes - the climate of global competition notwithstanding.

Let us all in the industry look forward to more fruitful years ahead.

ANTONIO G. BERNAS
Chairman
Philippine Wood Producers Association

It is with great pride that I welcome all members, guests and exhibitors to the 50th Foundation Anniversary celebration of the ***Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA).*** *We thank all of you for your invaluable support and exceptional commitment to the endeavors of PWPA.*

This golden year celebration is an important milestone for our Association. It is an opportune time for us to assess the environment surrounding the wood industry and pursue new directions as we continue to fulfill our vision-mission of ensuring wood supply on a sustainable basis for the generations of Filipinos to come.

We hope that this event will be beneficial to all of us in the industry as we move forward to confront the challenges of competitive global economy.

FERNANDO A. LU
President
Philippine Wood Producers Association

Save-The-Rainforest Movement A Gigantic Con, Say Eco-Scientists

Two of the world's top eco-scientists, Patrick Moore and Philip Stott, say the save-the-rainforest movement is wrong: at best, vastly misleading; at worst, a gigantic con. *"All these save-the-forests arguments are based on bad science,"* says Moore, a Canadian who helped found Greenpeace. Stott, professor of biogeography at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies and editor of the Journal of Biogeography, agrees.

Both started as conventional environmentalists – agreeing with accepted wisdom that the rainforests are endangered. But in the 80's and early 90's the two independently started to dig deeper into the rainforest issue. Separately, they came to remarkably similar conclusions - public opinion is wrong.

"One of the simple, but very important facts is that the rainforests have only been around between 12,000 and 16,000 years. That sounds like a very long time, but, in terms of the history of the earth, it's hardly a pinprick," Stott says. *"They are very young. The simple point is that there are now still – despite what humans have done – more rainforests today than there were 12,000 years ago."*

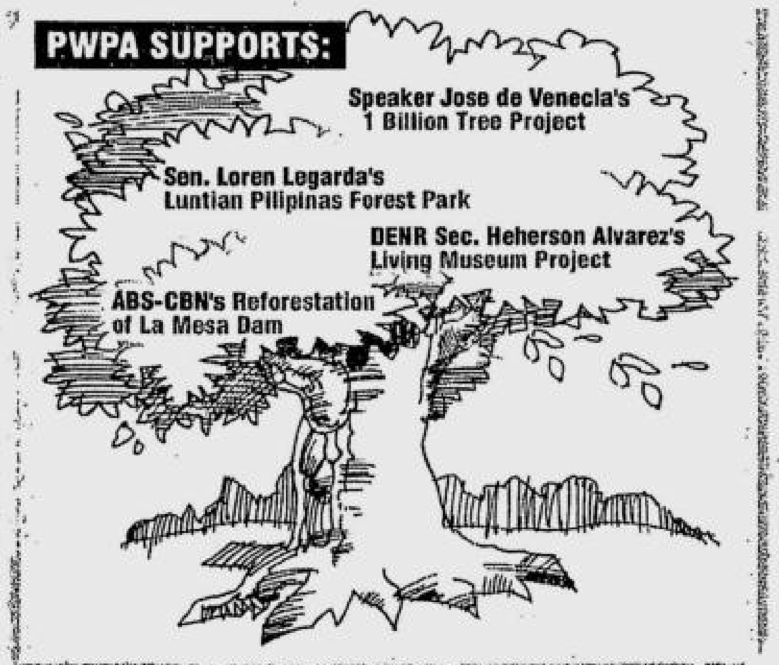
"This lungs of the earth business is nonsense; the daftest of all theories," Stott adds. *"If you want to put forward something which, in a simple sense shows you what's wrong with all the sciences they espouse, it's that image of the lungs of the world. In fact, because trees fall down ahd decay, rainforests actually take in slightly more oxygen than they give out. The idea of them soaking in carbon dioxide and giving oxygen is a myth. It's only fast-growing young trees that actually take up carbon dioxide."*

"In terms of world systems, the rainforests are basically irrelevant. World weather is governed by the oceans", he says.

Both scientists say the argument that the cure for cancer could be hidden in a rainforest plant or animal – while plausible – is also based on false science because the sea holds more mysteries of life than the rainforests. And both say fears that man is destroying this raw source of medicine are unfounded because the rainforests are remarkably healthy.

"This stuff about them vanishing at an alarming rate is a con based on bad science," Moore says.

The above is an abstract from a New York Post article by Barry Wigmore entitled "Eco-Scientist Deny Amazon's in Danger'. The article in whole at http://www.nypostonline.com/news/4951/htm


PWPA SUPPORTS:
Speaker Jose de Venecia's 1 Billion Tree Project
Sen. Loren Legarda's Luntian Pilipinas Forest Park
DENR Sec. Heherson Alvarez's Living Museum Project
ABS-CBN's Reforestation of La Mesa Dam

SVL
SOUTHLAND VENEERS LTD
NEW ZEALAND

Murphy
Transcontinental
Ltd.
New Zealand

PILIPINAS SHELL PETROLEUM CORPORATION

OUTLAST

ROLLOG (M) SDN. BHD
Log Producer: Exporter
Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia

ORSUS CHEMICALS CORPORATION

UCPB

GLOBAL COMMERCIAL
TRADING CORPORATION

UNIVERSAL SALES CORPORATION

RYCO, INC.

MALAYAN INSURANCE
MALAYAN INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.
A YGC Company

GLOBESCO, INC.

Regan
Industrial Sales Inc.

MONARK
EQUIPMENT

ETERTON MULTI-RESOURCES CORP.

SUPREME
STEEL PIPE CORP.

DMCI PROJECT DEVELOPERS, INC.
"HABITAT DEVELOPERS"

FIL-CHIN Engineering
Fabricators • Engineers • Contractors • Merchandizing

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites authorized distributors/dealers to pre-qualify and to bid for the Acquisition of Various Equipment for the Use of the Food Development Center (List is available at PBAC Secretariat). The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

September 3-5, 2001	- Issuance of pre-qualification requirements
September 12, 2001	- Deadline of submission of pre-qualification documents
September 18-19, 2001	- Issuance of bid documents
September 21, 2001 (10:00 AM)	- Pre-bidding conference
September 28, 2001	
(9:15 - 10:00 AM)	- Submission of bid proposals
(10:15 AM)	- Opening of bid proposals

Pre-qualification forms and requirements can be secured from and submitted to PBAC Secretariat, ODAFA, 7th Floor Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. Bidding documents and technical specifications may likewise be secured from PBAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders upon payment of P2,000.00 non-refundable fee.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) **EDGAR S. ASUNCION**
Deputy Administrator and
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – Aug. 31 & Sept. 3, 2001)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
PASEGURUHAN NG MGA NAGLILINGKOD
SA PAMAHALAAN
(GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM)
LUNGSOD NG QUEZON SANGAY II (SIBILYAN)
Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon 1101
QUEZON CITY BRANCH BIDDING COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM invites all interested parties to prequalify and submit sealed proposals for the office requirements of the GSIS Quezon City Branch Office, as follows:

ITEMS/DESCRIPTION

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

To handle the following:

1. JANITORIAL SERVICES – nine (9) janitors
2. SECURITY SERVICES – eleven (11) security guards

Inquiries on pre-qualification, details of the requirements, terms, and conditions, and official Bid Forms may be referred to the Chief, Administrative Division, GSIS Quezon City Branch Office, during office hours at Tel. No/s. 922-61-78 or 924-27-41.

For the purpose, the Bidding Schedule is prescribed:

Pre-qualification : September 07, 2001
Date of Bidding : September 17, 2001

9:00 A.M. Security Services
2:00 P.M. Janitorial Services

Sealed Bids in triplicate shall be submited with a refundable cash bid security equivalent to 5% of the total amount of the bid. Manager's/Cashiers's of Certified Checks shall be acceptable as cash.

The GSIS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality on the bids received, and accept the bid deemed most advantageous to the System, but does not guarantee that any award shall be made. Its decision shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) **DOMINADOR P. EVANGELISTA**
Manager

(PDI - Aug. 22, 24 & 31, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Collection District II-B

MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT

NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT

WHEREAS, the herein described items/goods were imported at the Manila International Container Port (MICP), which up to the present time, no customs Import Entry have been filed by Consignee or his duly authorized representative for the following motor vehicles within the period fixed by law, to wit:

REG. NO.	ARRIVAL	CONSIGNEE	DESCRIPTION
PCL-012	02/13/00	MARY ANN F. CATAGATAN/ PATRICIA CANLAS	ONE (1) UNIT VOLVO 740, 1986 MODEL
PCL-012	02/13/00	PETER OVERMAN/ PATRICIA CANLAS	ONE (1) UNIT VOLVO 740, 1985 MODEL
PCL-012	02/13/01	JOS BAAS/PATRICIA CANLAS	ONE (1) UNIT VOLVO 740, 1985 MODEL
PCL-012	02/13/01	DOROTEA NOBLE/ PATRICIA CANLAS	ONE (1) UNIT VOLVO 340, 1988 MODEL
PCL-012	02/13/01	SHIRLEY PASSION/ PATRICIA CANLAS	ONE (1) UNIT VOLVO 340, 1988 MODEL
PCL-012	02/13/01	AGNES CATAGATAN/ PATRICIA CANLAS	ONE (1) UNIT MERCEDES BENZ 380 SE, 1983 MODEL
PCL-012	02/13/01	LORNA CALIMLIM/ PATRICIA CANLAS	ONE (1) UNIT MERCEDES BENZ 380 SE, 1983 MODEL
PCL-012	02/13/01	FELOMINA P. ALCARAZ/ PATRICIA CANLAS	ONE (1) UNIT SAAB, 1988 MODEL

WHEREAS, the failure of the consignee/importer and such other claimant to claim/ adjudicate his/her importation shall be deemed to be a renunciation of his/her interests and property rights in favor of the government, pursuant to Section 1801 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended by R.A. 7651, and be auctioned after ten (10) days from the date of posting/publication.

SO ORDERED.

Manila International Container Port, Manila, Philippines, August 27, 2001.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. EMELITO V. VILLARUZ**
District Collector of Customs

(PDI – Aug. 31, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
860 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Metro Manila 3008
Tel. Nos. 372-5057 * 372-50-43
Fax Nos. 372-50-48 * 372-50-61

Addendum

Notice of Postponement of the release of Pre-qualification requirements to bidders for the construction and delivery of 48 units 27-footer Fiberglass Patrol Boats, a project under the Bantay Dagat Program, RP-Japan Increased Food Production Program (KR-II).

The DA-BFAR wish to inform all the interested bidders the postponement of the release of the pre-qualification documents, pending resolution of some issues regarding the project.

The revised schedule will be published in the newspaper as soon as the issues will be resolved for your information and guidance.

(Sgd.) **MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.**
Director, BFAR/
Vice-Chairman, DA-BFAR PBAC

(PDI – Aug. 31, 2001)

Planning for 91st PGH anniversary. Dr. Mediadora C. Saniel (fourth from right), overall chair of this year's foundation anniversary committee of the Philippine General Hospital (PGH), presides over a meeting to map out plans for the observance of the 91st year of PGH on September 1-3. Among the participants are (counter-clockwise, from right), sports subcommittee chair Mario Eguia, ways and means subcommittee chair Dr. Rody G. Sy, over-all co-chair Dr. Josephine C. Bondoc, publicity subcommittee chair Elsa Esteban, PGH assistant directors Dalisay Nodque (for administration), Dr. Edward Tordesillas (for health operations) and Deogracia Valderrama (for nursing), with other committee members Erlinda Cambia, Millet Amarille, Edna Siao, Nenette Padilla, Elena Yu, Ma. Lourdes Asprec, Helen Ayapana, Igmedio Enerez, Dr. Dennis Serrano, Dr. Katherine Krings, Rodolfo Silvestre, Genesis Jimenez, and Teresita Julio.

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Interested parties are requested to secure the Bidding Guidelines for a fee of P2,500.00 from the Office of the President, The Metropolitan Club, Estrella Street, Makati City. Telephone numbers **895-9986** to **89** or **896-0206** and Facsimile number **896-6816**.

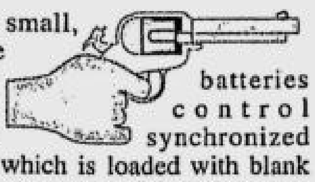
(PDI - Aug. 31, 2001)

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Film shots

Q. How do they make gunfights look so real in the movies?



A. The secret is the 'squib' —a small, smokeless, non-metallic, explosive charge. It can be detonated by small batteries strapped to the actor, by wires from a control board or by radio control. This is synchronized with the firing of the shooter's gun, which is loaded with blank charges. Attached to the squibs are latex 'blood bags' filled with bright red, gelatin-based fluid. When the squibs burst the bags, the 'blood' spurted.

Classified Odd. While touring Germany with the famous Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, legendary American markswoman Annie Oakley was challenged by Crown Prince William to shoot off the end of the cigarette held between his lips. Not wanting to shoot too close to the royal face, Annie obliged by just shooting away the ash, leaving the cigarette still alight. She did this from a standing position at a distance of 100 feet.

Past Forward. This day in 1907: Ramon Magsaysay, third post-World War II president of the Philippines, was born in Iba, Zambales.

WORD WATCH

Guy (gī) : from Guy Fawkes, an English conspirator in a plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament in London in 1605.

PDI – Aug. 31, 2001

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PAL posts ₱419-M revenue

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE Airlines Inc., which is undergoing a restructuring, said in a statement yesterday that it posted a profit of P419 million on revenues of P39.3 billion for the year ended March 31, 2001.

In June, the airline said it posted a net income of P436.5 million in the 2000-2001 year.

The flag carrier posted a small P45.8 million profit in 1999-2000 for the first time in seven years.

"We're aiming and working hard for the P1-billion profitability. We're hopeful that we'll be able to achieve that with the help of our patrons," PAL president and chief operating officer Avelino Zapanta said in a news briefing.

However, he said PAL was "cautious" in its approach to meet this target.

"We're showing positive results, but we admit there are difficulties. We're cautiously hopeful that we will achieve our target P1-billion profit," PAL chief finance officer Andrew Huang said.

PAL's P419-million net income was nine times higher than the previous year's P45.8 million despite "adverse influences," according to airline officials.

Both Zapanta and PAL chair and chief executive Lucio Tan cited an increase in jet fuel prices and the uncertain global economy as among the adverse situations that the flag-carrier had to hurdle the past year.

Huang added that the peace and order situation, which had a bad effect on the country's tourism, as well as the general economic downturn being experienced worldwide were also among the factors that made business tough for PAL.

"Business is tough. We're just trying to maintain our market share. At the end of the day, what's important is that there is cash coming in to pay debts and to keep the company going," he said.

Also, PAL is already on its third year of operations under loan rehabilitation.

The huge surge in its revenues in the last fiscal year allowed PAL to make $365.3 million in principal and interest payments as well as $14.2 million worth of debt repayments.

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THE LEADER IN THE LAMINATING FIELD

DTI to decide on Philcemcor plea in 2 weeks

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry wants more time to decide on the petition of Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. to impose a provisional duty on cement imports from Taiwan.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said the agency needed up to two weeks to get more details on the country's cement importation before it could render a decision on Philcemcor's petition.

Roxas had said that he would announce the DTI's decision before the end of this month. He said the DTI's Bureau of Import Services has taken more time combing through the voluminous documents gathered than expected.

He stressed, however, that the DTI was close to ruling on the issue which has polarized the industry and consumers.

Philcemcor has petitioned the government to impose a provisional duty on imports by Taiwan Cement Corp. while the Tariff Commission mulls on the appeal for more permanent measures such as punitive duties and quantitative restrictions on shipments into the country.

But consumer rights groups—Consumers Union of the Philippines and Confederation of Home owners Association for Reforms, Governance and Environment—claimed that putting curbs on imports would enable Philcemcor to further jack up the prices of cement.

Napocor raises ₱532M from 1-day sales scheme

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NATIONAL Power Corp. yesterday said it earned P532 million from its one-day power sales scheme from January to July this year. The amount is 38-percent higher than the year-ago level of P385 million.

Alberto C. Guanzon, chief of Napocor's power network business department, traced the income growth to a higher volume of electricity sold and the increase in the number of participants in the daily auction.

Guanzon added that the electricity traded in the first seven months reached 1,063 gigawatthours, 53-percent up from last year's level.

He said sales volume in the first seven months was higher than year-ago level despite the lower excess capacity of Napocor this year due to the maintenance shutdown of some baseload coal plants.

For the month of July alone, revenue grew by 14.3 percent year-on-year from P398.2 million to about P455 million. The average day-ahead price for the period was placed at P1.91 per kilowatthour.

The official said that one of the factors that influenced the steady growth of the one-day power sales this year was the agreement between Napocor and the Manila Electric Co. to allow the utility's "embedded" customers to take part in the program .

GSIS to bid $10-B Napocor reinsurance

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System is insisting it will hold its own bidding for the reinsurance of state-owned National Power Corp.'s nearly $10 billion worth of assets.

The state-owned pension fund has slated the auction within the month and has invited Napocor to send two representatives to participate in the annual process.

Napocor earlier said it would be the one to select the reinsurance firms that would cover the insurance policy of its assets given the amount involved and "to ensure greater transparency and accountability."

The state-owned power firm said it had been trying to collect some $41 million in outstanding claims from the GSIS but had so far collected only $1.4 million.

In a statement, GSIS president Winston Garcia declared that GSIS had the receipts to show that Napocor "has been fully paid for all their completed claims."

Garcia clarified that "completed claims" were those that had fulfilled all documentary requirements.

In a letter to Napocor president Jesus Alcordo, Garcia reiterated: "It is GSIS' responsibility to secure for NPC the most favorable terms and conditions for the insurance policy that GSIS will issue to NPC. How GSIS will protect its risks under the insurance policy is GSIS' sole undertaking."

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APARTMENT

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ALABANG

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MAKATI

MAGALLANES HOUSE POOL 8439292-8184966-8106557

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Retiro cor. Banawe
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MITSUBISHI

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96 Galant SS Manual 315T 0917-5282271 Tel. 7213151

'97 L300 FB 270T 631-3649

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HiAce L300 Urvan 8257135

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

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Nurse/M'wife Stay-In T5610681

MALE/FEMALE

CARE GIVER T5280722

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•OFC STAFF 9134470 Ayna•

Ofc Staff 913-4470 BOP

Ofc Staff 9134470 Helen

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NOTICE is given that the estate of the late **CORAZON S. TOLENTINO** was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc.#340, Page #70, Book #42, Series of 2001 under Not. Pub. Lope M. Velasco of Mla.
(PDI-Aug. 24, 31 & Sept. 7, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the loss of PICOP Stock Certificates issued to **Col. GERONIMO G. SABELLANO**. If no contest is received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Aug. 24, 31 & Sept. 7, 2001)

Notice is given on the loss of ANSCOR Stock Certificates issued to **Col. GERONIMO G. SABELLANO**. If no contest is received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Aug. 24, 31 & Sept. 7, 2001)

NOTICE is hereby given that EQUITABLE-PCI BANK Stck Certs. # 2916 (353 shrs), 10235 (141 shrs) and 15810 (144 shrs) legally and lawfully issued to DONNA T. CANCIO were lost as acknowledged by Atty. Constantino L. Reyes Not. Public in and for QC, Doc.#231, Page# 47, Bk#2 Series of 2001.
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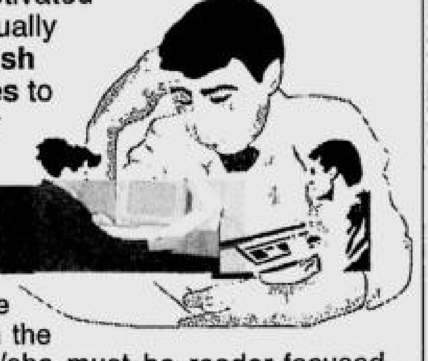

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DRAFT	4.07 M
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Bidders interested only for the vessel's BULLET TANKS may also submit their offer.

Sealed bids should be dropped in a bid box provided at Room 718 not later than **2:00 PM, September 7, 2001**, upon which bids shall be opened in the presence of participating bidders.

A bidders deposit of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) in the form of cash, cashier's or manager's check is required. Bid indicated should be inclusive of ten (10%) percent Value Added Tax (VAT).

PNOC-STC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any formality or infirmities found therein, or to accept such bids as may be advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **JOCELYN G. ATOTUBO**
Chairperson-Disposal Committee

(PDI – Aug. 30 & 31, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
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Only pre-qualified bidders as of October 8, 2001 shall be allowed to participate in the Public Bidding to be held on November 15, 2001 at BUSCO, Bukidnon at 9:00 AM.

Pre-qualification Forms shall be issued starting September 4, 2001 at SRA, Quezon City and SRA BUSCO and the deadline for the submission of said requirements shall be on September 18, 2001.

The list of qualified bidders shall be released on October 8, 2001. Thereafter, bid forms shall be issued for a non-refundable cost of Php700.00 each.

A pre-bid conference shall be held on October 23 at BUSCO, Bukidnon at 9:00 AM.

All bids must be accompanied by bid bonds in the amount of 5% of the total cost of the tender or offer—either in cash, Manager's Check or GSIS bond.

For further inquiries, please call:

THE SECRETARIAT - Metro Manila
SRA Bidding and Awards Committee
Tel. No. 929-6837

and

SRA Bukidnon (BUSCO)
c/o NOLE M. SERMONIA

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality or defect therein, and to accept any or all offers that may be considered most advantageous to the SRA.

(Sgd.) **JAMES C. LEDESMA**
Administrator

(PDI – Aug. 29, 30 & 31, 2001)

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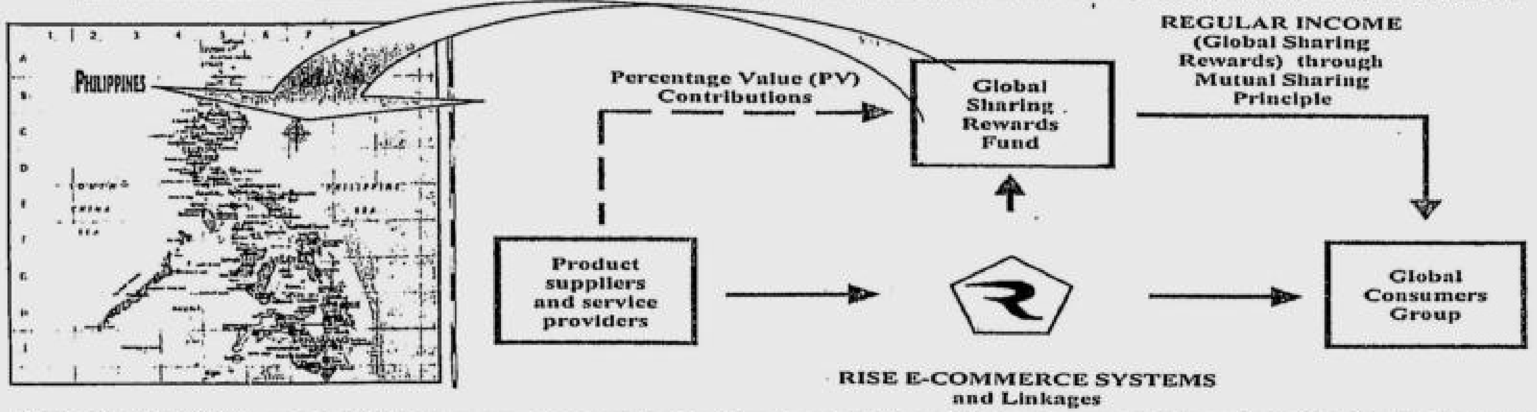
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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 5, MANILA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF
MINOR KATHRYN DE JESUS DUNTON

Sp. Proc. No. 01-101376

SPS. MICHAEL LE ROY JOHNSON
and GINA SARMIENTO JOHNSON
Petitioner.
x---x

ORDER

In a verified petition filed with this Court by petitioner, SPS. MICHAEL LE ROY JOHNSON and GINA SARMIENTO JOHNSON, through counsel, they pray that after due notice, publication, and hearing, judgment be rendered granting the adoption of the minor KATHRYN DE JESUS DUNTON.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, this Court hereby sets the initial hearing of this petition on September 12, 2001 at 8:30 in the morning, at which time and date, all interested parties are cited to appear and show cause if any why the petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioners in a newspaper published, edited, and of general circulation within Metro Manila once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, and a copy of this Order with the petition be served upon the Office of the Solicitor General, Office of the City Prosecutor of Manila and the DSWD-NCR. The Department of Social Welfare and Development-NCR is hereby directed to conduct a Social Case Study as required by law for a period of one (1) month upon receipt of this Order and to submit to this Court the Child Study and Home Study reports and their recommendation on the matter at least one week before the scheduled date of hearing.

SO ORDERED.
Manila, August 1, 2001

(Sgd.) **AMALIA R. ANDRADE**
Judge

(PDI – Aug. 17, 24 & 31, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Public is hereby advised to desist from transacting, contracting and/or doing business with people who claim any connection with the Rise Group of Companies and/or RISE E-COMMERCE SYSTEMS, INCORPORATED except through our accredited Business Center Operations (BCOs) and authorized representatives.

Reports of deceptive activities of certain group/s have reached our knowledge. Apparently, these people are only riding onto the popularity of our company, which they claim they are part of, and of the Systems we introduced.

Let it be known that Rise E-Commerce Systems, Incorporated is not securing payments for subscription fee from interested consumers without proper documentation and that *we have not authorized anybody*, including our BCOs and authorized representatives, *to demand advance payments for basic commodities and/or other products and services* which we cater to our regular consumers. For subscriptions to our Systems or for payments of goods or services, please transact only direct to our accredited BCOs, suppliers and/or depository banks. Please exercise proper incredulity.

It is imperative, therefore, that all necessary transactions and business agreements be done through our accredited Business Center Operations (BCOs) located in strategic areas nationwide or through our corporate headquarters located at Suite 1906 Robinson's Galleria Corporate Center, EDSA corner Ortigas Complex, Quezon City.

We enjoin the public to verify with us first before entering into any financial transaction and/or notify us of any knowledge about these unscrupulous/doubtful activities.

Warning is hereby given to those involved in this illegal act as they will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

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SALVACION CARAG MENDOZA

of **DAGUPAN CITY**

peacefully joined our Creator on August 29, 2001
at the age of 73.

Though we may have to face and endure an empty space in our hearts,
we will be forever thankful to the Almighty God for giving us
a loving wife, a good mother and a caring grandmother
who is and will forever be part of our lives...

Her loving husband

ANG SENG TIAN

Her loving Children

Betty, Raul & **Lorinda, Rey** & **Rosemarie** and **Sonny** & **Genelyn**

and Grandchildren

Dennis, Jenny, Lindsay, Rhea, Rosyle, Ren-ren, Riva and **Glenn**

request the pious readers to join us in prayer for
the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes,
Chapel 2-B, 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

There will be Mass on September 2, 2001 to be held in
Nacional Memorial Homes at 8:30 AM.
Interment will follow at Heritage Memorial Park,
Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

TABANG MINDANAW

CONDOLES WITH THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST. COLUMBAN , THE FAMILY
AND FRIENDS OF OUR LATE BELOVED PEACE PARTNER

Rev. Rufus Halley, MSSC

25 January 1944 - 28 August 2001

who died tragically in the service of PEACE in Mindanao
on 28 August 2001 in Malabang, Lanao del Sur

We pay tribute to a man of Peace who nourished the bridge of understanding
and dialogue between peoples of different faith and culture;
A man of great love and concern for the people of Lanao del Sur
and was the first to capture in photos the devastation of the all-out-war in
Mindanao in the Moro communities so dear to his heart; and was a partner in the
conduct of emergency relief operations for the victims of war.

For his dedication and concern, Fr. Popong was loved by
many Maranaos, Iranons and Christians who were his friends and family.
The beauty and magnanimity of his spirit will continue to reign forever in the
hearts of the people whose lives he has touched.

His remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church
in Malabang, Lanao del Sur
Interment will be on Saturday, 1 September 2001 at the Divine Shepherd Cemetery,
Cagayan de Oro City after the 9 o'clock mass at the Immaculate Concepcion Church.

Please say a prayer for Father Popong. Please say a prayer for PEACE.

TABANG MINDANAW II

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the bereaved family of

COL. JUAN EUGENIO E. ARROYO

"Johnny"

of Candaba, Pampanga
(October 20, 1912 - July 23, 2001)

wish to thank all of you
for your support and concern;
for your Mass and prayer offerings;
for your flowers and messages of sympathy;
for your comforting presence
during our moment of grief.

But most of all, we thank the Almighty God
for Johnny's eighty-eight years as Model Son,
Quintessential Officer and Gentleman,
War Veteran and Beta Epsilonian,
Loving Husband,
Beloved Dad and Super Lolo.

From **Priscila Rina Tinio**, children and in-laws;
Angela and **Cesar Villanueva**; **Maya** and **Fred Santiano** (†);
Patricia and **Heinz Staub**; **Nicky**; **Butch** and **Lince**;
Joy and **Bobby Guevara**; and **Susie**

Grandchildren: **Jocelyn** and **Bruce**; **Ariel**, **Dax** and **Jam**;
Gino; **Sugar**, **Carina**, **Chris**, **Addi** and **Boom**

MARCELINO R. IGNACIO, JR.

of Imus, Cavite and Quezon City

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 29, 2001 at the age of 78.

His loving wife **ETHEL**; children **HEISS, ELLA** and **JOEL CARLOS**; grandchildren **MAIA, BEA, RAYA** and **GIA CARLOS**; brothers, sister and in-laws **FELINO** and **ARCELI**; **RIZALINO, ERLINDA, PELAGIO** (†) and **VICKY, CELSO** and **MARY PASCUAL, NORMA PASCUAL, DENNIS** and **CLECY ANGELES, ROMY** and **GLORIA PASCUAL**; and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City. Interment to be announced later.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ROGELIO "ELY" M. AGUAS

September 22, 1925 to August 20, 2001

wish to thank all who offered Masses and prayers; sent flowers and messages of sympathy; offered services in many different ways; kept vigil; were present at the last rites; or just, by their heartfelt presence or in various ways, gave us consolation in our moments of grief. May the good Lord grant you all His countless blessings for your kindness and love.

RAMON "TONY"
TRINIDAD MATABAN

of Dagupan City, Pangasinan

January 13, 1951 -- August 27, 2001

*It is with joy tinged with the sorrow of parting that we announce the passing on to life eternal of our beloved **Tony**, a loving husband, a good father and a wonderful grandfather.*

His loving wife **Letty**; his beloved children **Ma. Khristine** and **Oliver Lomibao, Mary Antoinette** and **Oliver Tan, Raymund** and **Bianca Mataban, Brianne Mari Guinto**; his dear grandchildren **Miggy, Nina Mari, Nica** and **Tony Boy**; his parents **Teofilo T. Mataban** (†) and **Laureana Mataban**; his brothers and sisters **Vic** (†) and **Ly, Chit** and **Vic, Ernie, Arthur** (†) and **Delia, Josefino**, and **Joselito** (†); his nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request all pious readers to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Knights of Columbus Council, Dagupan City (Beside St. John Cathedral). Interment will be on Wednesday, September 05, 2001, eight o'clock in the morning at Eternal Garden Memorial Park.

Adalia Pobre-Cabildo

of Paoay, Ilocos Norte and Quezon City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on August 29, 2001 at the age of 92.

Her bereaved husband **Pedro A. Cabildo** (†); children **Mae** and **Sixto Fernando, Eden** and **Jesus Herrera, Florecita** and **Benjamin Guillermo, Aida** (†) and **Victor Marquez, Imelda** and **Manuel Flores**; brother **Cesar** and sister **Begonia**; sisters-in-law **Lily** and **Prudencia** and brother-in-law **Elpidio**; grand and great grandchildren, nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Gregorio Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City on a date to be announced later.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Cor. 5:4-5

Message of Thanks

We, the brothers and sisters **Luisa, Lusen (†), Tomas, Antonio, Jose, Vicente, Lilian**; nephews and nieces of the late

Betty G. Ngo

(April 24, 1951 - August 22, 2001)

wish to convey our Heartfelt Gratitude to our relatives, friends, and all those who offered Masses and prayers; gave donations and sent flowers; called up, sent letters and messages; visited and kept vigil; attended the funeral rites; condoled with us and showed love and concern in our time of bereavement.

May our Lord Jesus bless you all.

HERMINIA BAUA COLMENAR

of Cabagan, Isabela and Quezon City

Peacefully joined her husband FIDEL, on August 25, 2001
at the age of 101.

Her children **Nene & Jun, Goding & Rachel, Hermy & Lulu, Tony & Cely, Ben & Nattie**; grandchildren, great grandchildren; sister **Charing**; and other relatives request the pious readers and friends to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. John's Mortuary in Sto. Domingo Parish Church, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 1, 2001 at Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Quezon City after the 8:00 AM Mass at the Sto. Domingo Church.

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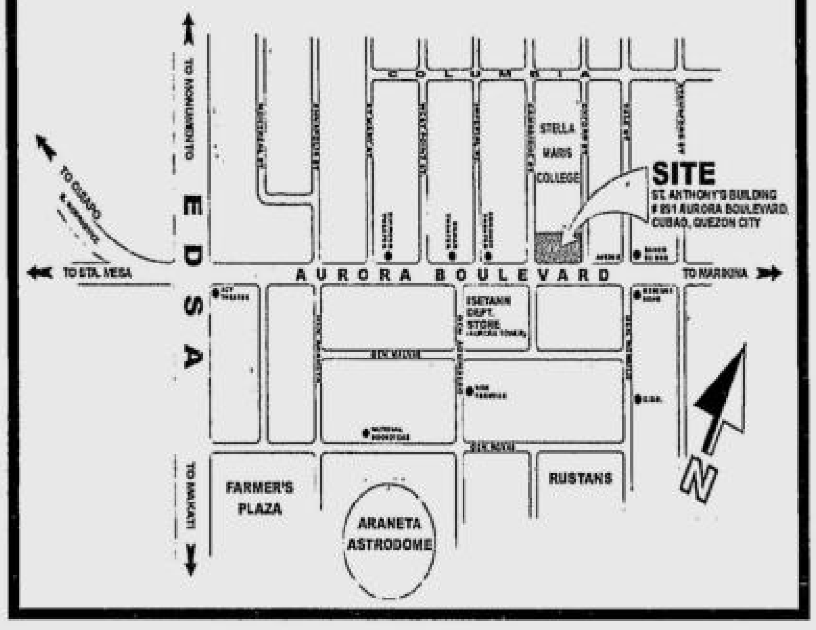

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In Memory

of the 24th Death Anniversary
of

JOSE CONCEPCION, Sr.

who died on August 31, 1977

and the Birth Anniversary
of the late

HERMINIA S. CONCEPCION

Their loving children, **Jose, Raul, Mely**, and **Rene**, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren have offered Masses at the following churches:

Santuario de San Antonio Mckinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City	12:15 P.M. and 6:00 P.M.	**Sacred Heart Parish Church** Dau, San Antonio Village, Makati City	6:00 P.M.
Good Shepherd Parish Church Manuela Subdivision, Las Piñas	6:00 P.M.	**Nuestra Sra. de Salvacion** Anonas St., Sta. Mesa, Manila	6:30 P.M.
St. Andrew Church Constellation St. Bel-Air Village, Makati City	6:30 P.M.	**Imus Cathedral** Imus, Cavite	5:00 P.M.
St. Joseph the Worker Palanan, Makati	6:00 A.M.	**Our Lady of Miraculous Medal** Project 4, Quezon City	6:30 P.M.

I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.
John 14:6

"I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."
Isaiah 49:6

The Missionary Society of Saint Columban

mourns the tragic death of

FR. RUFUS HALLEY

who died tragically on his way home to Malabang
from the neighboring parish of Balabagan
on August 28, 2001 at around 4:00 PM
Fr. Rufus was 57.

He was ordained in 1969 and arrived in the Philippines on October 1, 1969. He was the Assistant Parish Priest in Silang, Cavite, Morong, Rizal and Parish Priest in Jala-jala, Rizal. He volunteered to minister in the Prelature of Marawi, Lanao del Sur in 1980 where he faithfully served until the time of his tragic death.

Fr. Rufus now lies at rest in Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Malabang, Lanao del Sur.

Removal of remains from Malabang to Cagayan de Oro on Friday, August 31, 2001. Rufus will lie at rest at the Immaculate Conception Church, Bulua, Cagayan de Oro City on Friday night.

The Requiem Mass will be at 9:00 AM on Saturday, September 1st and burial will take place immediately after the Mass in the Divine Shepherd Cemetery, Cagayan de Oro City.

Mass for the repose of his soul will be celebrated on Wednesday, September 5th in Our Lady of Remedies Parish, Malate, Manila at 6:00 PM.

Fr. Rufus brought life wherever he went. May he now enjoy life in its fullness.

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Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in **Luzon**

Bakit lalayo ka pa? Sa INQUIRER, *convenient na sulit pa!*

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Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in **Visayas**

Diri na ta sa INQUIRER *bay! Sayon na sulit pa!*

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Mr. Ramon Charles Sy
New Renie's
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
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Ground Floor, Bombo Radio Building
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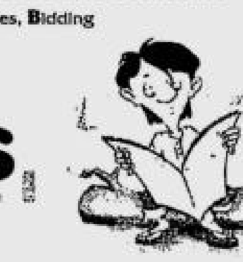

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in **Mindanao**

Ake ya tu na INQUIRER. *Sirca ya, sulit pa!*

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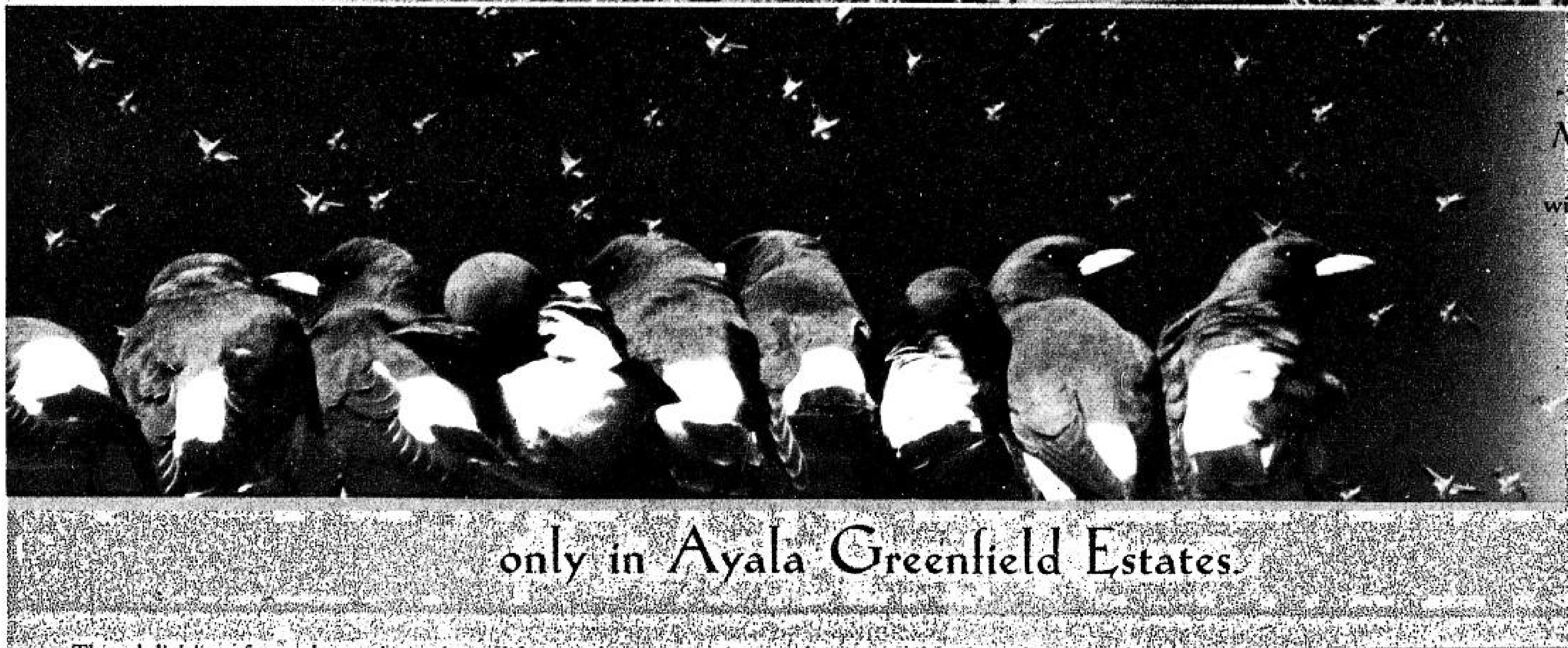
Bask in the grandeur of a 15-hectare park

Take in the splendor of a majestic tree grove with thousands of trees.

Go fishing in total peace and quiet on a tranquil lagoon.

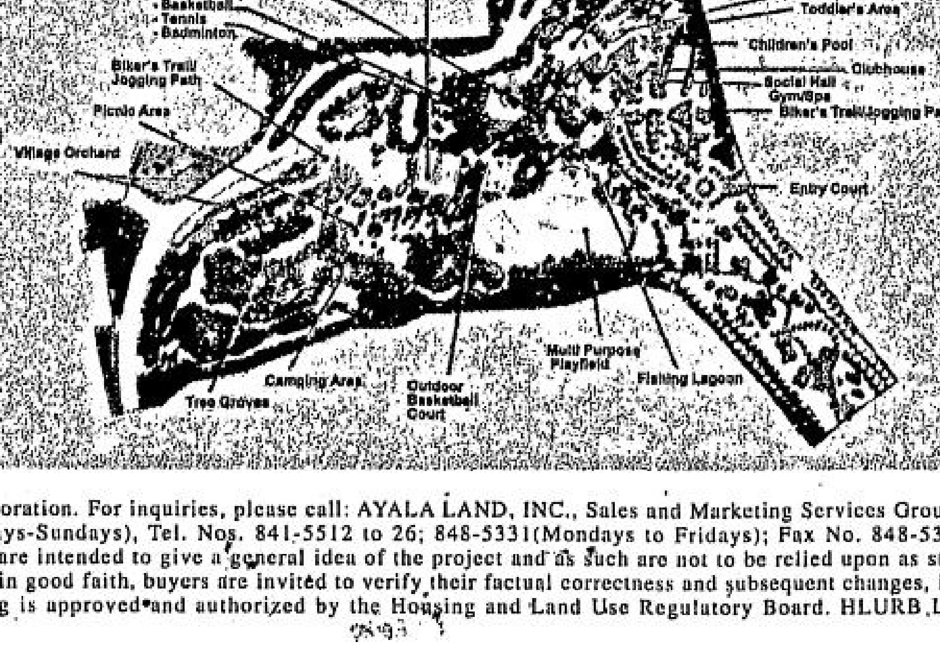
Enjoy a leisurely hike or jog along a 2.5-kilometer nature trail.



Marvel at the winged wildlife soaring free around the nature park.

only in Ayala Greenfield Estates.

The subdivision of your dreams is coming to life at Ayala Greenfield Estates. For sheer magnificence and magnitude, no other subdivision park comes close to what lies ahead on the 15 hectares of land that will soon be Nature Park. To put that figure in perspective, consider this: an entire subdivision -- of more modest proportions, of course -- would fit right into that same area. But at Ayala Greenfield Estates, it's only the park. And what a park it will be, with all the space you'll need to enjoy a host of amenities designed to help you live life to the fullest. Aside from the tree groves, the nature trail, and the lagoon, there will also be a fruit orchard, adult and kiddie pools, a golf putting area, a children's playground, a multi-purpose playfield, and a Locsin-designed clubhouse. All these will help you experience the intangible benefits of relaxation in communion with nature, right inside your subdivision. Call us today and visit the site.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Adult & Kiddie Pool
Pool Deck
Toddler's Area
Children's Pool
Clubhouse
Social Hall
Gym/Spa
Biker's Trail/Jogging Path
Entry Court
Convenience Store and Administrative Office
Outdoor Tennis Court
Indoor Courts
- Basketball
- Tennis
- Badminton
Biker's Trail/ Jogging Path
Picnic Area
Village Orchard
Tree Groves
Camping Area
Outdoor Basketball Court
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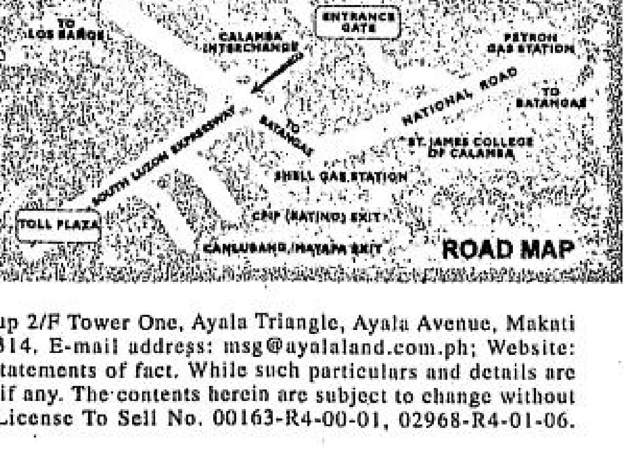
AYALA GREENFIELD ESTATES
ENTRANCE GATE
TO LOS BAÑOS
CALAMBA INTERCHANGE
PETRON GAS STATION
NATIONAL ROAD
TO BATANGAS
TO BATANGAS
SOUTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY
ST. JAMES COLLEGE OF CALAMBA
SHELL GAS STATION
TOLL PLAZA
CPIP (BATINO) EXIT
CANLUBANG/MAYAPA EXIT
ROAD MAP

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BUSINESS Friday

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

HONDA MADNESS
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FREE CAR VIDEO CD SYSTEM!
UPON PURCHASE OF THE CR-V DURING THE MADNESS
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. [illegible] Series of 2001

Competition calls for 3 'rights'–goods, stores, times

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE INFLUX of foreign retailers into Philippine shores since the liberalization of the retail industry last year has forced local companies to find novel ways to bring the right products to the right stores at the right time.

Otherwise they risk being left out in the dust.

Since the retail industry was closed for decades, Philippine retailers survived and even prospered by using old techniques. But this no longer holds true, as growing local consumers now have more sophisticated tastes, thanks to the wide array of products brought in by foreign retailers.

To stave off competition, local retailers have embraced the concept of supply chain management to keep themselves competitive. By getting a firm grasp on all stages of production—from sourcing the merchandise to selling these in stores or outlets—overhead costs are hopefully brought down.

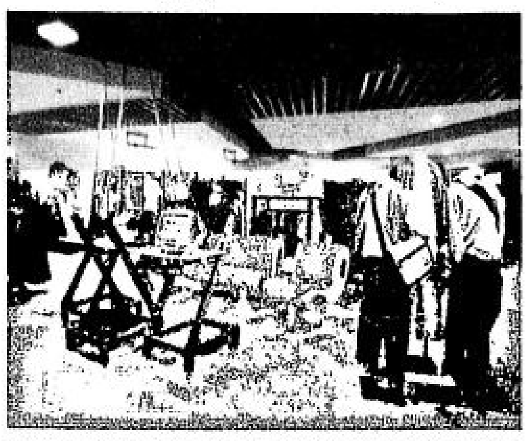
Oracle Worldwide Marketing Asia Pacific senior director Frank Prestipino said in a paper that the supply chain refers to the ability of a company to see up and down the various tiers of suppliers including their inventory of products and services on one side and the customer's demand on the other.

"The goal: to make the communication and transaction flow between demand and supply seamless," Prestipino says.

By keeping the transaction flow transparent, high quality products can eventually be sold at low or competitive prices. Keeping prices low is after all one of the most effective ways of competing with foreign brands.

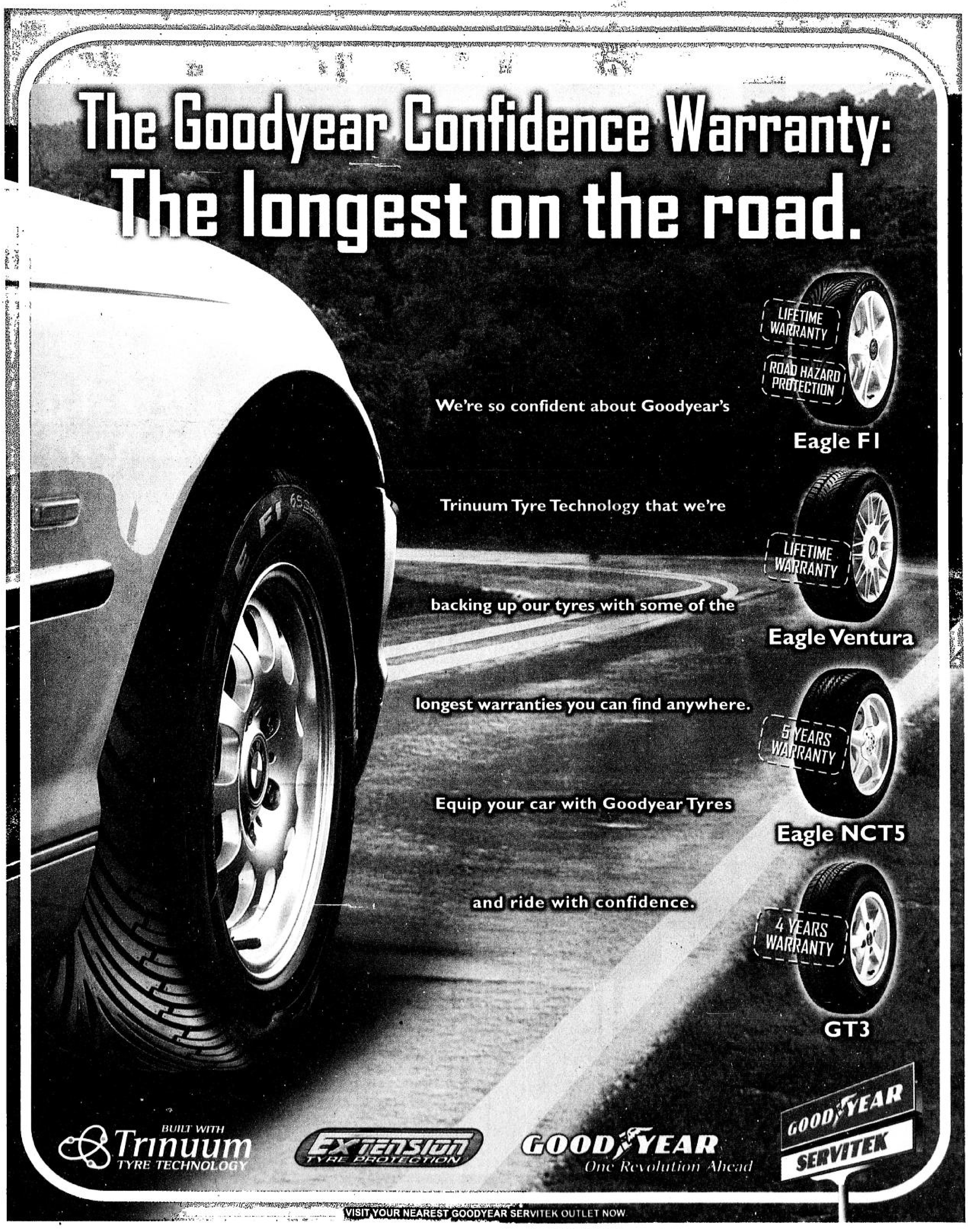
National Bookstore, Linea Italia and the Golden ABC group (makers of Penshoppe clothes) of companies are among the local retailers that have embraced supply chain management techniques to keep prices down.

COMPETITION/ C6



PENSHOPPE tied for the Filipino Retailer of the Year award for 2001.

NATIONAL Book Store is unrivaled in its category.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We're so confident about Goodyear's
Trinuum Tyre Technology that we're
backing up our tyres with some of the
longest warranties you can find anywhere.
Equip your car with Goodyear Tyres
and ride with confidence.
LIFETIME WARRANTY
ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION
Eagle F1
LIFETIME WARRANTY
Eagle Ventura
5 YEARS WARRANTY
Eagle NCT5
4 YEARS WARRANTY
GT3
BUILT WITH Trinuum TYRE TECHNOLOGY
EXTENSION TYRE PROTECTION
GOODYEAR One Revolution Ahead
GOODYEAR SERVITEK
VISIT YOUR NEAREST GOODYEAR SERVITEK OUTLET NOW.

Do ads talk to you or someone else?

By Roger Pe

THERE IS no escaping ads. You switch on the television and there they are. They greet you good morning and wish you a nice breakfast. You take a shower and you hear the radio blaring what kind of soap you should use.

When you board your car or ride the jeepney, they ask you if you have checked your tires, used a better brake fluid or battery.

When you read the newspaper; they all scramble for your attention: automotive, hardware, malls, restaurants, hotels, beverages, apparels, airlines, personal care products, appliances . . . ads in all sizes and color. They scream to get your attention.

They hound you even in the restrooms with those now ubiquitous 'comfort' ads that say 2-ply tissues are better than the one you're currently using. Come noontime, they pose a reminder—if you're not lunching out, just pour hot water in a styrofoam cup and enjoy a hearty, noodle fare. By dusk, they tell you it is time to quench your thirst with a great-tasting beer.

Ads are here to stay. They've become part of our lives. They reflect the reality of what you actually experience when you use a product or service. But do they touch your emotions and talk to your mind?

Ads use a lot of persuasions to win consumers. While some are entertaining, amusing and endearing, some can be boring, irritating and insulting. Some go to great lengths to raise the consumers' level of thinking and aesthetic sense.

Some alienate themselves by talking solely to awards show judges, instead of their prime target, the consumers. Some talk to themselves and their competitions, disregarding what they are in the market for.

By not stating the very obvious, some ads give consumers many opportunities to think. They romance the consumers. They woo them. They give them their well-deserved respect.

Know the consumers

Ads should know consumers by heart, their habits, likes and dislikes. They should know when it's the best time to speak to them, what hour they're most receptive to messages and what time to keep your distance so as not to irritate them.

Overpersuasion can spoil a beautiful

DO/ C7

Exec having a ball running sports store

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

MARKETING STRATEGY

HE IS the real Toby behind Toby's Sports, the 23-year-old sporting goods shop that started out as a toy store in the Virra Mall shopping center in Greenhills.

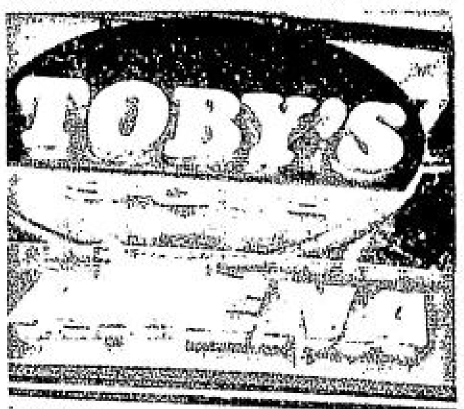
Toby P. Claudio was only five when his father, Roberto, set up the store. Today, at 27, he is in charge of the operations of the 11 company-owned branches and 12 franchisees outside Metro Manila.

Toby also spearheads the implementation of a multimillion expansion plan designed to get more Filipinos involved in sports.

Facelift

The first phase of the expansion plan of Toby's Sports, owned by Quorum International Inc., covers the facelift of its shops. It started with its "big store," at the Glorietta II, an 800-square-meter place, which carries a wide array of sporting equipment and cost P15 million to fix up.

THE GOAL is to encourage people to get into sports and reach a younger market.



TOBY Claudio

Toby expects investment recovery to take anywhere from three to five years.

The objective of the investment is to create an attractive place that will draw customers and induce them to get into sports.

Toby says creating a big store has been in his father's mind for the past three to four years but it took them a while to find the right location.

Toby explains the rationale behind the big store is similar to the concept stores and theme stores in the US such as the Nike Town and the Nike Stadium.

"Theme stores help bring in revenues and Filipinos haven't seen something like this before," Toby says.

"With a wide-variety place, people come and browse, and hopefully something interests them that will make them interested in a sport," he adds.

Basketball

With basketball being the most popular sports in the Philippines, the new store has a "shoot-out" area where anyone can pay P30 to try their three-point shooting prowess for 40 seconds.

The bigger and more attractive store is also geared to capture a younger market.

Since Toby's has been around since the '70s, the group fears that their clientele is getting old and they need to bring the more active market into their shops.

The bigger space will also allow Toby's to cater to a wider range of sports enthusiasts by carrying more gear and more choices for hobbyists.

Asked about the adverse effects of the economic crunch on their sales, Toby claims they thrive in a crisis.

Quoting his father's philosophy, "when the economy is down, we go up."

He explains that they have a loyal client base and noted that with a downtrend in the economy, some sports enthusiasts have more time to engage in their preferred activities. Their business is also boosted because sports is still one of the cheaper sources of entertainment

Into sports

Toby describes himself as very much into sports. His latest passion is flag football, a new sport that some college students play. Instead of tackling the opponent, the goal is to grab flags inside a pocket in the other person's pants.

During his high school days, he was into soccer. Now he plays badminton, tennis and golf.

"I am fortunate. Few businesses are as enjoyable to run as a sports store. I enjoy sports and know the value of getting into it," he says.

The best part, he adds, is that his father never pressured him to engage in sports nor to get into the family business.

But the Business Economics graduate of the University of the Philippines knew he would someday take over the reins of the company and he embraced the thought without any resentment.

After graduation he worked for the Fil-Estate Marketing Association in 1994. The following year he joined Quorum International Inc. as a systems analyst.

Three years later, he and his father agreed that he should also experience working in another firm. In 1997, he joined the brand management group of Selecta Dairy Products Inc. as assistant product manager handling Sunkist Fruit Juices.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1345, Series of 2001

Are study programs subject to fringe benefit tax?

By Hermenegildo T. Cabreros Jr.
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

IT IS common among large companies to grant their executives the opportunity to take up further studies here or abroad to enable them to hone or acquire new skills, and in the process increase their productivity in the company.

This is especially true when business activity is slow, like now, when companies invest in the executives they want to retain in preparation for the next busy season or the inevitable rebound in the economy.

Executives are sent to prestigious local graduate schools or to take up specialty courses in universities abroad, with the hope that returns on the investments on these executives will be realized once the executive applies what he or she learns to improve the company's business.

Since this practice is prevalent, it may be worthwhile to study the tax implications of these investments in the education of executives.

Let's take the example of Mr. X, a technical manager employed by a large-scale agricultural plantation. His responsibilities cover the maintenance and sanitation of the plantation, plant growth and fruit care and its productivity.

This includes, among others, soil and crop analysis, identifying suitable conditioners, fertilizer and chemical inputs, and programming its application in the plantation.

He supervises eight technical staff who implement and execute the plans and programs that he formulates.

Mr. X has been with the company for more than five years and his performance has always been exemplary.

As a reward, the company decided to send him abroad to a take up an 18-month specialty course that will cost the company about P4.5 million.

Mr. X came back after completing the course and enthusiastically applied his newly found skills in the plantation. But just two months later, another agricultural company offered him an employment package he could not refuse. So he quit his job even before his employer could recover the investment in his study grant.

Now we look into the taxability of the benefit granted to Mr. X.

Generally, the cost of educational assistance given to an employee is considered part of the employee's compensation income subject to withholding tax on wages and income tax.

In the case of managerial or supervisory employees, the cost of educational assistance shall be considered as fringe benefit subjects to fringe benefit tax (FBT) under Section 33 of the Tax Code, as implemented by Revenue Regulations No. 03-98.

"Fringe Benefit" means any good, service or other benefit furnished or granted by an employer, in cash or in kind, in addition to basic salary, to an individual employee (except rank-and-file).

This includes housing, motor vehicle, expense account and educational assistance to the employee or a company-sponsored study program.

Tax base for FBT purposes is the Grossed up

ARE/ C4

Monetary Value	4,500,000
Divided by	68%
GMV	6,617,647
Tax Rate	32%
FBT Due	2,117,647

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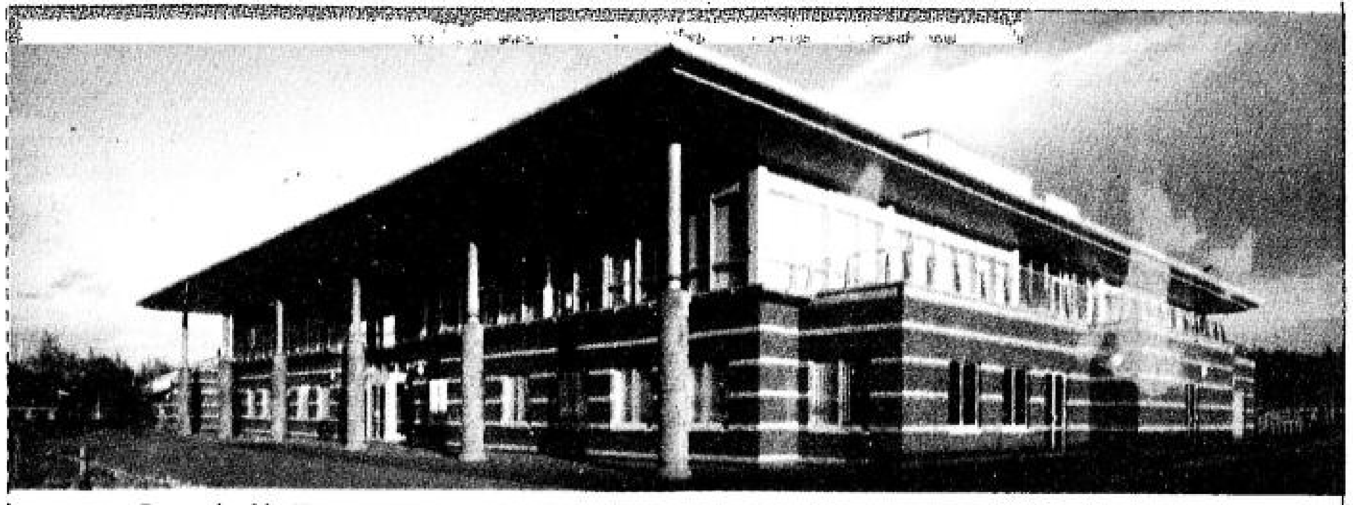

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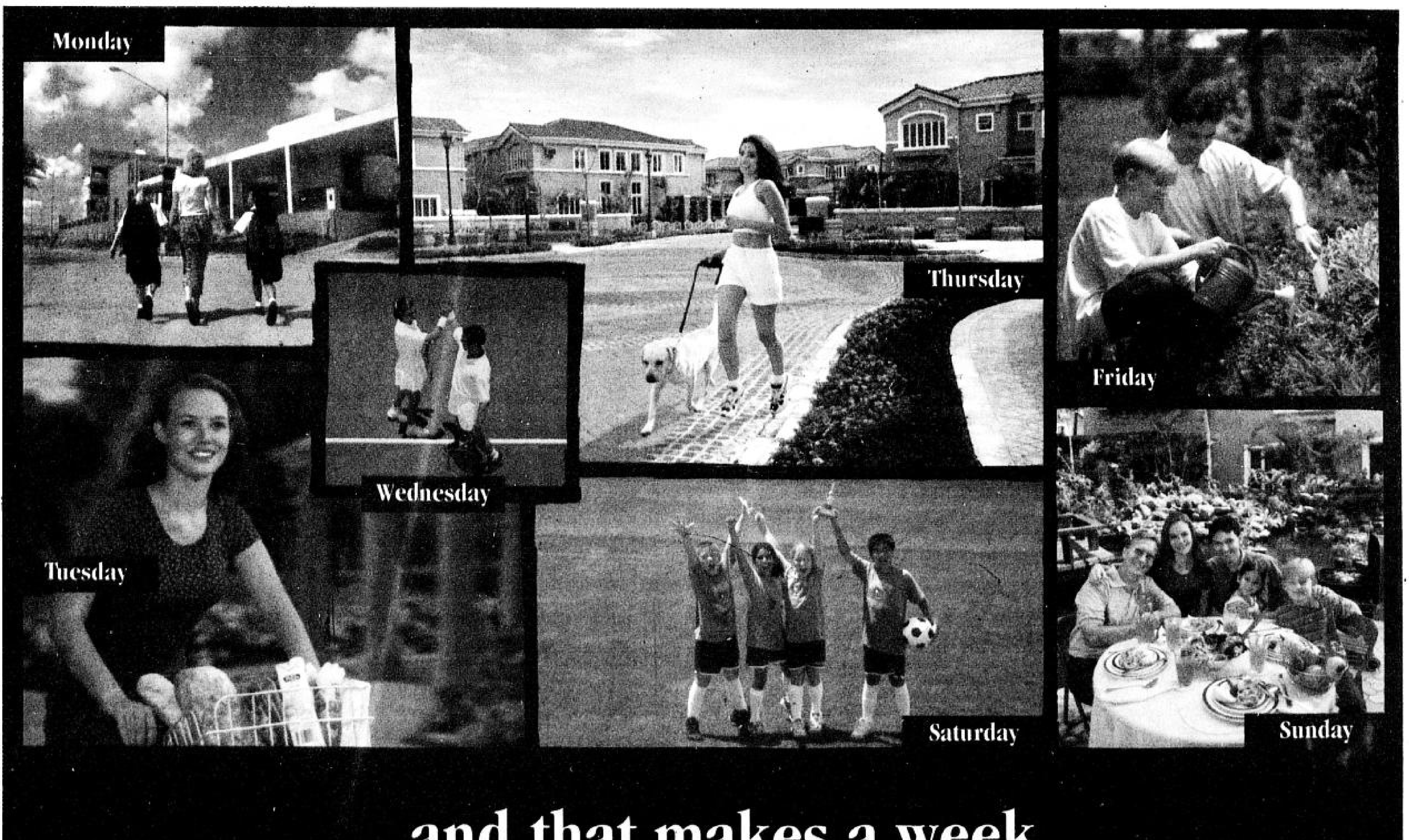

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Are study programs . . .

(From page C3)

monetary value (GMV) of the fringe benefit furnished, granted or paid by the employer to the employees (except rank and file) where:

GMV = Value of the Benefit + FBT

In general the GMV of the fringe benefit shall be determined by dividing the monetary value of the fringe benefit by 68 percent starting January 1, 2000, which is derived as follows:

(100%) minus (32% - fringe benefit tax rate starting January 1, 2000) = 68%

Assuming in this case the P4.5-million study grant given to Mr. X will be subject to FBT as follows:

FBT shall be treated as a final income tax on the employee (other than rank-and-file.)

Who is liable for FBT

The employer, whether individual, professional partnership or a corporation, regardless of whether the corporation is taxable or not, is subject to remit the tax to the government.

The FBT only applies to managerial and supervisory employees (note also that employer employee relationship must be present.)

The BIR regulations use the definition of managerial and supervisory employees under the Labor Code of the Philippines, as follows:

Managerial employees–Those who are vested with powers or prerogatives to lay down and execute management policies and/or to hire, transfer, suspend, lay-off, recall, discharge, assign or discipline employees.

Supervisory employees–Those who, in the interest of the employer, effectively recommend managerial actions that require independent judgement.

In the case at bar, the applicable provision of the regulations provides that:

The cost of educational assistance given to managerial and or supervisory employees which are borne by the employer shall be treated as taxable fringe benefit subject to fringe benefit tax. EXCEPT when the company sponsored study program is granted under the following conditions:

1. Education/Study or course taken is directly connected with the employer's trade or business, and;

2. The same is covered with a written contract that employee shall remain employed with the employer for a period of time mutually agreed upon by them.

The BIR regulations also provide that exemption from the fringe benefit tax shall not be interpreted to mean exemption from any other tax imposed by the Tax Code.

If the conditions exempting the grant from FBT are present, does it mean then that the value of the study grant will still be subject to other income tax on the part of the executive employee?

No

The answer is no, because when these conditions are present, the expenditure shall be considered as incurred for the improvement of the employer's trade or business and thus, may be treated as a deductible expense of the company.

Also, it can be said that the provision is intended by the framers of the regulations to clarify that fringe benefits granted to rank-and-file employees are subject to withholding tax on wages, though specifically exempt from FBT.

In the case of Mr. X, though the company may justify that the course or study grant given is directly connected with the trade or business of the agricultural company, it was not covered by a written contract or service agreement that requires Mr. X to remain employed with the company for a specific period of time.

The absence of a service agreement between the company and Mr. X allowed Mr. X to leave the company and use his newly acquired knowledge and skills for his own pursuit and benefit.

Without a service agreement, the intention of the company to invest in and retain Mr. X, and translate the technology acquired from the study grant given to him is not shown.

In fact, it is clear in this case that the study grant has definitely enriched Mr. X, both technically and financially with his transfer to a higher paying job. It cannot be said then that the expenditure on the study grant given to Mr. X is for the convenience and furtherance of the company-employer's trade or business.

Thus, there is risk that the company will be subject to pay the FBT on the value of the study grant.

In the final analysis, we can see that, at the onset, the company should have required Mr. X to enter into a service contract agreement to ensure that he will have to render service to the company with exclusivity for a specified period of time.

This would enable the company to benefit from the new technology acquired by Mr. X and in effect, recover its investment on the expenditure for the US study grant. In this way the company would have been able to satisfy the second condition for the exemption from FBT.

This would also validate the justification that the study grant expense was for the convenience and business purpose of the company-employer, pursuant to the first condition.

This could have also prevented the company's loss due to the untimely resignation and transfer of Mr. X to the other agricultural company, which in effect, benefited at the expense of the company that Mr. X left.

Heto na sila!
ma
na

CEVisayas B-Meg Panalo Ka Partner Winners

	NAME	DEALER PARTNER
1st Prize Winners - Pioneer VCD / Karaoke		
1.	Robbie Miflores	LB Poultry Supply
2.	Oliver F. Necesario	B-Meg Banatayan
3.	Robert Borja	Tudlo-Tudlo Store
2nd Prize Winners - Mountain Bikes		
1.	Rosario S. Obero	Lean's Mini-Agrivet
2.	Roaxn Arc D. Aberia	Pacifica Agrivet-San Juan
3.	Gableta Reynaldo	Pacifica Agrivet-Catbalogan
4.	John C. Tanseco	Lean's Mini-Agrivet
5.	Renato C. Nama	LB Poultry Supply
3rd Prize Winners - Kodak KE60 Cameras		
1.	Leandro P. Estorninos	Pacifica Agrivet-Catarman
2.	Paricia L. Igloria	Lourd Agrivet
3.	Elpidia J. Cadiz	Minglanilla Agrivet
4.	Lunie F. Necesario	Laysan Commercial Inc.
5.	Odesa F. Necesario	Laysan Commercial Inc.
Consolation Prize Winners - B-Meg Umbrellas		
1.	Suzita M. Tingal	Monaresa Gen. Merchandise
2.	Carlu Sabela	LB Poultry Supply
3.	Mark Anthony Machica	Pacifica Agrivet - Guiuan
4.	Zenaida A Subang	B-Meg Tacloban
5.	Linda Bacnutan	Leans Mini Agrivet
6.	Zenaida Bantiles	LB Poultry Supply
7.	Charlene Galope	Pacifica Agrivet - San Juan
8.	Celso F. Aparra	Pacifica Agrivet - Rizal
9.	Demetrio DAA	LB Poultry Supply
10.	Cristina Aguilar	Monaresa Gen. Merchandise
11.	Anabella N. Yadawon	LB Poultry Supply
12.	Araceli J. Nacua	Joel Vista
13.	Jocelyn P. Cortes	Simborio Ent.
14.	Esmeralda Diaz	B-Meg Tacloban
15.	Eangel Penales	Monaresa Gen. Merchandise
16.	Oneal F. Necesario	B-Meg Bantayan
17.	Gaudioso A. Casio	Mabansag Agrivet
18.	Aida Gamba	Leans Mini Agrivet
19.	Josefa Elena T. Gadaingan	Leans Mini Agrivet
20.	Philip Villacencio	Monaresa Gen. Merchandise

Central Luzon B-Meg Panalo Ka Partner Winners

	NAME	DEALER PARTNER
1st Prize Winners - Pioneer VCD / Karaoke		
1.	Juliet Pasion	Gezen Trading
2.	Liza A. Salcedo	Manalac Poultry Supply
3.	Roberto Tuazon	Kondo Poultry Supply
2nd Prize Winners - Mountain Bikes		
1.	Maribel Boongaling	De Leon Poultry Supply
2.	Mark Eugene Guevarra	Arayat Vet. Clinic & Agri Supply
3.	Christopher Marzan	Lani Hermogino
4.	Felino C. Pasturan	Manny Lo Store
5.	Cecilla Castro	De Leon Poultry Supply
3rd Prize Winners - Kodak KE60 Cameras		
1.	Amalia E. Ganzon	Gezen Trading
2.	Roberto Mendoza	De Leon Poultry Supply
3.	Bobet Mangulabnan	De Leon Poultry Supply
4.	Carolina De Guzman	Domingo Poultry Supply
5.	Garry De Jesus	RLD Poultry Supply
Consolation Prize Winners - B-Meg Umbrellas		
1.	Randy C. Perez	D.P. Neulita Arfapo
2.	Wilson M. Forbes	Eddie Dizon
3.	Ildefonso P. Ocampo Jr.	Alpha Atienza
4.	Rosella R. De Guzman	Kondo Poultry Supply
5.	Liza M. Langit	Lorna Dizon
6.	Lucila M. Jaraba	Kondo Poultry Supply
7.	Fely Macapagal	Carlos Magno, Jr.
8.	Alvin Tolentino	Mac Poultry Supply
9.	Jesse Viray	Kondo Poultry Supply
10.	Imelda E. Barrera	Candelaria Commercial
11.	Ramon C. Perez	Kondo Poultry Supply
12.	Joseph Santos	Yolly's Store
13.	Alvin Paraiso	De Leon Poultry Supply
14.	Angelina A. Mabalot	M.C. Cunanan P/S
15.	Jeanilly Estella	Josephine Pacer
16.	Emigidia De Vera	Manalac, Poultry Supply
17.	Homer G. Gozum	Apung Pepe B-Meg Feeds Dealer
18.	Margareth Salaysay	De Leon Poultry Supply
19.	Enrico Aguilar	Joaris Agrivet
20.	Mheng Xerla	ApoCor Poultry Supply

Luzon Aquatic B-Meg Panalo Ka Partner Winners

	NAME	DEALER PARTNER
1st Prize Winners - Pioneer VCD / Karaoke		
1.	Ronaldo A. De. Sagun	Vilpat F/S
2.	Michael Aala	Vilpat F/S
3.	Anna Loriene A. Dela Cruz	Leticia dela Cruz
2nd Prize Winners - Mountain Bikes		
1.	Jeffrey Canuzo	Willy Canuzo
2.	Jeanete M. Sison	V-Gem F/S
3.	Damiana dela Pena	Uni-goods P/S
4.	Yolanda Mizola	Delos Santos Agri Supply
5.	Joan L. De Sagun	PAPS Feeds
3rd Prize Winners - Kodak KE60 Cameras		
1.	Lauro R. Tristeza	Uni-goods P/S
2.	Erwin Ternorio	Vilpat F/S
3.	Bella Perez	PAPS Feeds
4.	Willy de Ocampo	Rod Cacao F/S
5.	Jolito Acean	Vilpat F/S
Consolation Prize Winners - B-Meg Umbrellas		
1.	Evelyn Cabangisan	Delos Santos Agri Supply
2.	Zoilo Morales	Vilpat F/S
3.	Invencion E. Montejo	Delos Santos Agri Supply
4,	Nestor M. Lacson	Apung Pepe
5.	Conchita G. Nualia	Uni-goods P/S
6.	Narcisa Gonzales	Preciosa Solis
7.	Michael Nubla	Uni-goods P/S
8.	Liezel Villanueva	Preciosa Solis
9.	Fernando Alarcon	Uni-goods P/S
10	May Roque	PAPs Feeds
11.	Larry Perez	Brackish Aqua Cultured P/S
12.	Virgillo Tenorio	I. Ofilada
13.	Rene Nepomuceno	Cadiz F/S
14.	Gina Dimasayao	New Life P/S
15.	Remegio M. Toje Sr.	Ben Pres Alquiza
16.	Noel Mazino	Delos Santos Agri Supply
17.	Renita Valbuena	Cadiz F/S
18.	Atilano S. Mangubat	V-Gem F/S
19.	Jaypan Tabian	St. Ruiz Farm Supply
20.	Gina De Ocampo	Rod Cacao F/S

North Mindanao B-Meg Panalo Ka Partner Winners

	NAME	DEALER PARTNER
1st Prize Winners - Pioneer VCD / Karaoke		
1.	Lito U. Macapil	Izon Enterprises
2.	Anacorita F. Kinaadma	Mambajao Agri
3.	Esterlita C. Aloba	Elaine Alkuino
2nd Prize Winners - Mountain Bikes		
1.	Susana C. Manalim	Thelma M. Ceniza
2.	Felix J. Tagabucba	Canoy Agri Supply
3.	Hermonilda Adan	Mambajao Agrivet Supply
4.	Mary Joy Caliguid	Robert Di
5.	Redeline Aberde	Sistoso Agrivet
3rd Prize Winners - Kodak KE60 Cameras		
1.	Rosario Leraza	Pacific Star Agrivet
2.	David Cercado	Mt. Moriah Agri Supply
3.	Myrna B. Mangilimutan	Pacific Star Agrivet
4.	Roselyn Apal	Pacific Star Agrivet
5.	Cuslano A. Benghit, Jr.	E. Lim Agricultural Supply
Consolation Prize Winners - B-Meg Umbrellas		
1.	Felicimo P. Villarin	Pacific Star Agrivet
2.	Wayne Salibo	B-Meg Ozamis
3.	Arvin G. Inovero	B-Meg Sales Office
4.	Mary Buntag	MPC Initao
5.	Cuslano A. Benghit, Jr.	Izon Enterprises
6.	Jerry Rosario	Izon Enterprises
7.	Roberta Bagundol	Gerjer S. Pepito
8.	Reymlani P. Sullera	Pacifica Agrivet Supply
9.	Ronaldo Acttub	Ilipco CDO
10.	Victoria Sabado	NY Agrivet
11.	Gomer B. Perez	Pasi-Ozamis
12.	Sally E. Avaniejo	Pasi-Surigao
13.	Alberto Salado Jr.	Avessa Agrivet
14.	Cristito G. Tiu Jr.	Robert Li
15.	Teodora Melencio	Pacifica Valencia
16.	Roy Utatay Rio	Gaballes Mktg.
17.	Rebecca Bulaybulay	Halapitan Marketing
18.	Gualberta S. Salung	Pacifica Moranding
19.	Gee S. Perales	Canoy Agri Supply
20.	Pelonio's Farm	Ilipco

North West Luzon B-Meg Panalo Ka Partner List of Winners

	NAME	DEALER PARTNER
1st Prize Winners : Pioneer VCD Home Theater & Karaoke		
1.	Jesusa C. Lopez	JJ's Farm Supply
2.	Sheryle G. Suip	St. Ruiz Farm Supply
3.	Rosalina Gapaser	Aizza
2nd Prize Winners : B-Meg Mountain Bikes		
1.	Cathyrine Paguio	Snooks Commercial Trading
2.	Shirley Ballesteros	Snooks Commercial Trading
3.	Mellinio V. De Vera	M.V. Trading
4.	Emmanuel Ugay	Biason P/S
5.	Ramon Delfin	Suniga A / PS
3rd Prize Winners : Kodak KE60 Cameras		
1.	Leticia L. Nieto	EDNA Poultry Supply
2.	Elena C. Sison	Sison Agricultural & Poultry Supply
3.	Carmen Delia Epistola	Relano's Poultry Supply
4.	Roger O. Caasi	Carig Feeds Supply
5.	Hazel Pelila	Northern Peak Enterprises
Consolation Prizes: 20 B-Meg Umbrellas		
1.	Federico B. Obra	Camalig F/S
2.	Melody Q. Murillo	Sison Agricultural & Poultry Supply
3.	Arwin Locquiao	Sison Agricultural & Poultry Supply
4.	Jean R. Bellesa	Snooks Commercial Trading
5.	Dandyline M. Tomagos	Rubjoe Traders
6.	Sonny Q. Reyes	Andrea Peralta
7.	Francis Calinos	Benpres Alquiza
8.	Jayson Cajindos	Benpres Alquiza
9.	Jovita B. Acosta	Abaya General Merchandise
10.	Eduardo b. Estayo	C & T Agri & Poultry Supply
11.	Mely S. Cabel	St. Ruiz Feed Supply
12.	Rebecca T. Matutino	Sison Agricultural & Poultry Supply
13.	Carmina Navalta	Betterfarm
14.	Raymond S. Bucsit	Nuesca F/S
15.	Milagros B. Abellara	Lerida Ramirez
16.	Zosima C. Garin	Sison Agricultural & Poultry Supply
17.	Virgilio M. Del Rosario	Baratung Rice Store
18.	Carlito Soriano	Baratung Rice Store
19.	Glo C. Picazo	Hilaria Calaoagan
20.	June Alison Ramos	Siapno Agri Poultry Care Supply

South East Luzon B-Meg Panalo Ka Partner Winners

	NAME	DEALER PARTNER
1st Prize Winners - Pioneer VCD / Karaoke		
1.	Jennifer D. Luna	Hermelina Nieva
2.	Ramiro Bobis	Jim Brizuela P/S
3.	Jose C. Hermida	Planters Annex
2nd Prize Winners - Mountain Bikes		
1.	Andrea B. Barce	Tenese Trading
2.	Sylvia Y. Punay	Jim Brizuela P/S
3.	Gloria Pabilona	Toledana Agrivet Supply
4.	Nonita B. Ortua	Pinoy Commercial
5.	Jean G. Pontades	Johnny's Commercial
3rd Prize Winners - Kodak KE60 Cameras		
1.	Cleofe Casaol	Daraga Merchandising
2.	Julieta Rodriguez	Best Grow Poultry Supply
3.	Nilda Serrano	L and H B-Meg
4.	Nestor Guillermo	Good Harvest
5.	Bernardo Ordono	Toledana Agrivet Supply
Consolation Prize Winners - B-Meg Umbrellas		
1.	Janette Espedoa	Tito Boy Feeds Supply
2.	Remedios Balentes	Amaranto P\S
3.	Felix Mediavillo	Luz Agrivet
4.	Erma Baloloy	Amaranto P\S
5.	Alicia Racadap	Borromeo P\S
6.	Manuel Ogneta	Jesle P\S
7.	Benjamin Casa	Ligao Bayanihan
8.	Agnes Raquel	Loridenz Store
9.	Patricia Dequina	D & D Agrivet
10.	Ma. Teresa Bedino	Tito Brizuela
11.	Amy Florence	Yasmin Sepeda
12.	Antonio Medina	L & H Agrivet
13.	Mariette B. Zamora	Best Grow
14.	Isabel Bon	Sunrise Commodities
15.	Garizaldyd Dulot	Tito Boy P/S
16.	Celeste Barbonio	E.Monedero
17.	Lourdes Jamito	Manzihing Enterprises
18.	Anna Crizelda Tan	Foremost Enterprises
19.	Elvie Fabon	Best Grow
20.	Elsie Navarette	B.C. Feeds Supply

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NCR. B-Meg Panalo Ka Partner Winners

NAME	DEALER PARTNER
1st Prize Winners - Pioneer VCD / Karaoke	
1. Resteo Varilla	Diliman Trading
2. Raul De Vera	Maxor
3. Danilo Dela Cruz	Petronilo, Payawal, Feeds Dealer
2nd Prize Winners - Mountain Bikes	
1. Joel Principio	L & L Bustos
2. Ma. Leah Orfinada	Maxor
3. Rodolfo L. De Jesus	Maxor
4. Saturnino Concepcion	Danilo Burbos
5. Lorna Ramirez	Ervin Poultry Supply
3rd Prize Winners - Kodak KE60 Cameras	
1. Shiela Salas	Maxor
2. Juanito Dela Cruz	Milagring Poultry Supply
3. Leonisa Alba	Cooperative, Agro Center
4. Marc Agustus Cruz	Tripple 7
5. Veronica Santos	Renato Santos Poultry Supply
Consolation Prize Winners - B-Meg Umbrellas	
1. Marilyn Santos	Maxor
2. Ma. Golderina Principio	L & L Bustos
3. Celestino Concepcion	Mayoralgo P/S
4 Efren san Diego	Hilario's Store
5. Angel B. Angeles	Joseph - Helen Feeds Supply
6. Gemma Flores	L & L Bustos
7. Alberto B. Venturina Jr.	S.C. Amistad Feeds Supply
8. Dennis Goyal	Milagring Poultry Supply
9. Albert Salas	Maxor
10. Ma. Theresa Martinez	Renato Santos Poultry Supply
11. Lucita Cruz	Lilian San Pedro
12. Rizaldo B. Verdillo	Lapuz Agri.
13. Rosario Adriano	A Sebastian, Poultry Supply
14. Milagros Lazona	Del Rosario Poultry Supply
15. Jan Selades	Del Rosario Poultry Supply
16. Estelita Sarmientó	Apolonio Marcelo
17. Christian Earl Sarmiento	Apolonio Marcelo
18. Dante Dipon	RAD Agri & P/S
19. Julita Domingo	JLD Feeds Supply
20. Gloria B. Tamayo	Imelda G Caluya

Nueva Ecija/Aurora B-Meg Panalo Ka Partner Winners

NAME	DEALER PARTNER
1st Prize Winners - Pioneer VCD / Karaoke	
1. Bong Del Rosario	A1 Agro Supply
2. Marlyn Tanara	Joann Nagayo
3. Joel De Guzman	Arlets Agro Supply
2nd Prize Winners - Mountain Bikes	
1. Mary Ann Gonzales	Prescy Flores
2. Carmita V. Rosales	Joann Nagayo
3. Connie F. Adriosula	Tiangco - Bulaklak A/S
4. Erlinda M Sayson	Carina C. Aquino Hog & Poultry Supply
5. Rosalinda S. Dela Cruz	Victorina Vinuya P/S
3rd Prize Winners - Kodak KE60 Cameras	
1. Perlita S. Samson	Tiangco-Bulaklak
2. Analin G. Antonio	Eulogio P. Antonio Enterprises
3. Lorna T. Bringera	Boy Wy
4. Eufracio Cabigting	Rivera's P/S
5. Caridad L. Cruz	Junmar Agricultural & Vet Consultancy
Consolation Prize Winners - B-Meg Umbrellas	
1. Christopher Mangulabnan	Robles Agro Vet
2. Elee Jimenez	A1 Agro Supply
3. Ma. Luisa Sate	Robles Agro Vet
4. Jeanorie S. De Guzman	Joann Nagayo
5. Lilia N. Cablao	Joann Nagayo
6. Josephine P. Punzalan	Robles Agro Vet
7. Rolando V. Dela Pena	Roccel
8. Servando F. Hernandez	Prescy Flores
9. Adrian Ventura	Miraphil
10. Emerlinda B. Samson	NETCOR
11. Juan Canada Jr.	Joann Nagayo
12. Gilbert Boscocho	Joann Nagayo
13. Rowena Leopardas	A1 Agro Supply
14. Nemencio P. Samin Jr.	Rivera's P/S
15. Lily D. Calma	A1 Agro Supply
16. Mary Ann A. Marcelo	Rivera's P/S
17. Bella S. Cayanga	A1 Agro Supply
18. Melanie C. Satur	A1 Agro Supply
19. Rosemarie Roque	Marilou Yncierto
20. Angelito B. Santos	Roccel

NELuzon B-Meg Panalo Ka Partner List of Winners

NAME	DEALER PARTNER
1st Prize Winners : Pioneer VCD Home Theater & Karaoke	
1. Roberto Pretta	Cadatal Poultry Supply
2. Erlinda Quinones	RDJ Agri Vet
3. Wilma Romero	Bayanihan Agricultural Supply
2nd Prize Winners : B-Meg Mountain Bikes	
1. Egerlina Panao	Mary Jane Mora
2. Jovy Agustin	Sunshine Poultry Supply
3. Nida Pascual	Cauayan
4. Clarissa Vallada	Lee Jay Store & Feeds Supply
5. Ralph Binag	Kaecy's Poultry Supply
3rd Prize Winners : Kodak KE60 Cameras	
1. Marites Daquiaog	Katlea Store
2. Rosenda Aquino	Sunshine Poultry supply
3. Raymund Aduca	Jetro Agri Supply
4. Norma Bayang	Mayflower Enterprises
5. Pascual Pagayatan	GM Animal Health Supply
Consolation Prizes: 20 B-Meg Umbrellas	
1. Lingay Bangio	Dao-angan Enterprise
2. Rommel Macadangdang	Arnold Acosta
3. Ruben Atoma	Cabatuan Vet. Services
4. Faustino Claravall	Kaecy's Poultry Supply
5. Geraldine Jambaro	Javillonar's Store
6. Nathaniel Lagagama	Bolting Agri-Chem
7. Lolita Jambaro	Javillonar's Store
8. Samson De Guzman	Serdin Grains Store
9. E. I. Soliba	Daongan Ent.
10. Queenie Sophia Tejero	GAC Agrivet
11. Seedney Enciso	Valenzuela Agrivet Supply
12. Jose Espino	Alivia, Vet Supply
13. Frederickson Cauan	Kaecy's Poultry Supply
14. Bong Solis	Jesse Malecdan
15. Amadeo Bentero	Kaecy's Poultry Supply
16. Martin Dulnuan	Joyce Agrivet Supply
17. Bernie Patoc	Joyce Agrivet Supply
18. Crystylane Palao-ay	Singwey Store
19. Christine Simbo	Joyce Agrivet Supply
20. Eusebia Erana	GAB Agrivet Supply

South Mindanao B-Meg Panalo Ka Partner Winners

NAME	DEALER PARTNER
1st Prize Winners - Pioneer VCD / Karaoke	
1. Esther Rebucan	B-Meg Sales Office
2. Romeo Tanguanco	Felix Talorete
3. Olympia Labastida	Astro Shoppers Mintal
2nd Prize Winners - Mountain Bikes	
1. Jennifer Jimenez	Dvo Sunrise Enterprises
2. Marlene Sianes	Talorete Store
3. Roselyn Nazareno	Davao Poultry Farm
4. Proceso Landong	Luisito Pero
5. Jocelyn Manuel	Mario Napikog
3rd Prize Winners - Kodak KE60 Cameras	
1. Anna Marie Caneda	Pacifica Agrivet-Toril
2. Melody Grace Poras	Allen's Agri Supply
3. Danny Vallecer	Animal Solutions
4. Pedro Besiata	B-Meg
5. Mary Grace Julian	Pacifica Agrivet-Toril
Consolation Prize Winners - B-Meg Umbrellas	
1. Ofelia Daigdigan	Calinan Pioneer Trade
2. Snooky Ocija	Patricio Pormelos
3. Rene Dagon	Allen's Agri Supply
4. Crisostom Trinidad	Hapolfamco
5. Marybeth U. Alayan	Erlon Agri Supply
6. Virgilio Lampa	Cherry Mabutol
7. Mario P. Capoy	Dave Agro Supply
8. Roselyn Nazareno	Davao Poultry Marketing
9. Ruth Redoble	Cynthia Melgarejo
10. Jerlyn Millalos	Panabo A\S
11. Maila Alcopra	Animal Solution
12. Ma. Elena Mercader	Davao Chows
13. Rosanna Sordilla	Donnens Agri-vet Center
14. Epifania Abastas	Astro Shoppers' Plaza
15. Floramie Caparoso	Davao Poultry Marketing
16. Evangeline Malaki	Astro Shoppers' Plaza
17. Rosemarie Gealon	Sional Poultry & Agrivet
18. Romeo Sabanal	Davao Poultry Mktg
19. Ronnie Guadalquiver	Pacifica Agrivet-Mati
20. Reyel P. Obeso	Frits Abasolo

South West Luzon B-Meg Panalo Ka Partner Winners

NAME	DEALER PARTNER
1st Prize Winners - Pioneer VCD / Karaoke	
1. Ben Sarmiento	Napoleon Sarmiento F/S
2. Alyssa Baladhay	Aida Baladayay F/S
3. Jinar Peron	Jimmy Ng
2nd Prize Winners - Mountain Bikes	
1. Avelino Cabral	Virtucio F/S
2. Rosielyn Kalaw	Enteng & Winnie F/S
3. Noli De Villa	CVC F/S & Gen Merch.
4. Raquel Toresa	Macasaet P/S
5. Elyn B. Kalaw	Diego Gen. Merchandise
3rd Prize Winners - Kodak KE60 Cameras	
1. Rex Ilao	Calapan City Farm Supply
2. Nicanor Lualhati	GH Trading
3. Gerardo C. Sevilla	Diego Gen Merchandise
4. Lorenzo Paredes	Feeds Edition
5. Norma G. Cabaces	CVC F/S & Gen Merch
Consolation Prize Winners - B-Meg Umbrellas	
1. Pol Saludo	Pol Saludo
2. Evalor A. Florido	Noves P/S
3. Romeo Catapang	GH Trading
4. Herminia Isabedra	Enteng & Winnie F/S
5. Virginia Maray	Fabelle Politico F/S
6. Elyn B. Kalaw	Diego Gen Merchandise
7. Sylvia Ignacio	Lucban Hog Raiser Multi Purpose Coop.
8. Conchita A. Villasin	Jimmy Ng
9. Agelito L. Medina	Myrna Cuadra
10. Himarod Ramos	CVC Gen Merchandise
11. Nelie Ramiro	Reden Villaos
12. Elemor A. Belen	Diego Gen Merchandise
13. Merla S. Anceja	Caparas Poultry Supply
14. Juliefe S. Monroy	Paredes Store
15. Edzel T. Cristobal	Diego Gen Merchandise
16. Nick B. Adalim	Elizabeth Crispino
17. Ester Penaflor	Elizabeth Crispino
18. Amelia G. Bais	Caffmaco Multi Purpose Coop.
19. Benjamin S. Camba	Jenny Ng
20. Josie Hirang	R. L. Carindang

WesVis. B-Meg Panalo Ka Partner Winners

NAME	DEALER PARTNER
1st Prize Winners - Pioneer VCD / Karaoke	
1. Alfredo R. Ibanez	Bacolod D' Jade Mktg. Inc.
2. Ma. Venia J. Abella	Iloilo B-Meg Sales Office
3. Roger D. Jose	Bacolod D' Jade Mktg. Inc.
2nd Prize Winners - Mountain Bikes	
1. Mr. Rodolfo C. Lim	Bacolod B-Meg Sales Office
2. Teresa M. Oloy	Carretas Poultry Supply
3. Jude C. Torres	Bacolod B-Meg Sales Office
4. Danny Gallego	Iloilo B-Meg Sales Office
5. Sharon M. Viscaya	PD Poultry Supply
3rd Prize Winners - Kodak KE60 Cameras	
1. Arnold A. Sison	Bacolod D' Jade Marketing
2. Alma J. Abisado	Mahro Poultry & Vet. Supply
3. Rose Ann Rivera	Bacolod D' Jade Marketing
4. Ms. Jonna M. Magturo	Caretas Poultry Supply
5. Josephine Detablan	A.Q. Poultry Supply
Consolation Prize Winners - B-Meg Umbrellas	
1. Roberto dela Cruz	Caretas Poultry Supply
2. Diosdado Donesa Jr.	A.Q. Poultry Supply
3. Marlon Escarian	Carretas Poulty Supply
4. Abner T. Panes	Pamonag Poultry Supply
5. Venancio Carpio	Carretas Poulty Supply
6. Ma. Nenia G. Saavedra	Bacolod D' Jade Marketing
7. Warlita T. Morilla	Country Feeds Supply.
8. Vilma S. Dueno	Jose Goncianao
9. Anthony Lucero	A.Q. Poultry Supply
10. Pedro M. Opina	Carretas Poultry Supply
11. Marlyn Almores	Carretas Poultry Supply
12. Ruby Lagman	Farmer's Poultry Supply
13. Higino Conlu Jr.	Carretas Poulty Supply
14. Stewart Paul J. Layson	Friendship Trading
15. Helen P. Dorilag	Aileen Surmlon
16. Jenelyn Cusay	Friendship Trading
17. Emever L. Espiritu	Bacolod D' Jade Marketing
18. Marinal Villa	A.Q. Poultry Supply
19. Enda J. Lacson	Iloilo B-Meg Sales Office
20. Sonia Continiento	Teresita Villanueva

Hanapin ang B-MEG Sales OFFICE na malapit sa inyo.
Deadline for claiming of prizes is on September 30, 2001.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0076, Series of 2001

Toymakers bet on Harry Potter movie to drive sales

NEW YORK—The bets are on that the first movie about freckle-faced teenage whiz Harry Potter will make related merchandise a hot ticket item this holiday season—but it's not clear if the Potter toys will work magic for the toy industry.

When "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" from AOL Time Warner Inc.'s Warner Bros. opens on Nov. 16, it is expected to be a big hit, industry experts said. But merchandise sales could be hampered by bad timing, discounted existing Harry Potter merchandise and anticipated lower consumer spending this holiday season.

"Everyone is being cautiously optimistic," said Felicia Kantor, a Lehman Brothers analyst, who expects the movie to be a "strong property," but not a blockbuster.

Manufacturers and retailers are more hopeful. They said toy sales will not be affected by the gloomy economic forecasts, and are confident the movie will drive demand for toys based on characters in the extremely popular Harry Potter books written by British author JK Rowling.

"It's hard to think of a trend stronger than Harry Potter," said Jeanne Meyer, vice president of corporate communications at Toys R Us Inc., which stocks Harry Potter activity sets, puzzles and games—items that are likely to be among the most popular this holiday season.

Indeed, how the merchandise fares is key to Warner Bros., which holds rights to a second film. The company is counting on building Harry Potter into a long-term franchise and a mainstay of the $19 billion US licensed entertainment, toys and games market.

Casting a wide spell

At the three-story, 40,000-square-foot Warner Bros. studio store on Times Square, scores of tourists picked through discounted Harry Potter merchandise on a recent afternoon.

There were action figures, statues, puzzles, board games, posters, key rings, casting stones, lunch boxes, stationery, apparel, towels and linens, most marked down by 20 to 25 percent.

A Warner Bros. spokesman said the markdowns may be tied to the imminent closure of the store. Warner Bros. announced in July it would close all studio stores by the end of October.

The abundance of product lines promoted by movie studios could hurt merchandise sales, said Christina Charasse, senior account manager of research firm NPD's toy services division, which is tracking the Harry Potter "phenomenon."

The movie studio is in danger of diluting the licensing of Harry Potter too much, with the practice she called "slicencing."

"The pie has a certain size, and making many slices does not make the pie any bigger," she explained. Already this summer, "way too much was thrown at the consumer" from such movies as "Shrek," "Tomb Raider," "Atlantis" and "Jurassic Park III."

Retailers too, are reluctant to buy "deep" ahead of the holiday season, said Dave Gerardi, senior editor of trade magazine Playthings.

The merchandise is available in major retailers, such as Sears, Roebuck and Co. stores, Kmart Corp. stores, its online arm http://www.Bluelight.com and Toys R Us stores as on its website http://www.toysrus.com.

Major licensees include toy makers Universal Games, Lego Co., Hasbro Inc. and Mattel Inc., all of whom plan to launch products close to the movie's release.

Casting a wider spell

Mattel said its Harry Potter trivia game last year was the No. 1 holiday game, and is now banking on the brand's popular appeal to girls and adults, in addition to the core teen and "tween" boys audience.

"The products have great play value, and even adults are excited about the movie," said Sara Rosales, director of Mattel's marketing communications. "Harry Potter is going to be around for many years, and we expect that it will be a long-term brand for us."

According to NPD, of those who have read at least one of the four books, 57 percent of children and teenagers, and 47 percent of adults, plan to buy related products. Children named six items they'd like to own, and adults picked three, said NPD.

However, some analysts said that Harry Potter's appeal is for a slightly older readership that doesn't make up the core toy audience.

Much of the merchandise is simply not "compelling enough," said Lehman's Kantor, naming as "best bets" the trading cards from Wizards of the Coast (a subsidiary of Hasbro) and the video games.

Other experts said the timing of the product launches was "a little off," and should have been put closer to the movie's release. Typically, merchandise sales are strongest from a month before to a month after a movie opens.

"By doing it in dribs and drabs, rather than whet the appetite of consumers, it may have had the opposite effect," said Gerardi.

Warner Bros., however, said only a "limited assortment" of merchandise was launched last year, and that the "small, steady flow" of products was intended to build the brand in the marketplace.

"The products have been received very well, and that's a signal that we made a good call," said the spokesman, who declined to be identified.

Going the whole hog-warts

As more products roll out closer to the movie's release, the hippogriffs of Harry Potter will have to do battle with other movie toys and video games. Two other movies and their properties—Disney's animated film "Monsters Inc." and New Line Cinema's "Lord of the Rings"—are targeted for much the same audience as Harry Potter.

Also, video games will be "hot" this season, said experts, with attractions such as Sony Corp.'s PlayStation 2, the new Nintendo game, and Microsoft Corp.'s Xbox video game console.

"If parents opt to buy one of these big-ticket items, they may not buy so deep into other items," said Gerardi.

Reuters

Asia-Pacific ad spending slows in first half of 2001

ADVERTISING spending across Asia-Pacific slowed dramatically during the first six months of the year, with signs the advertising industry is bracing for a tough year after the significant increases achieved in 2000, according to the latest advertising expenditure information released by ACNielsen Media International.

Advertsing expenditure figures from the 11 markets monitored by ACNielsen Media International showed that although the total value of advertising for the first half of 2001 edged up slightly to $13.5 billion, growth slowed in all markets due to a softening world economy.

"Essentially all markets experienced slower growth in the first six months of 2001 compared to the same period last year. Some growth markets such as China, the Philippines and Indonesia are believed to have actually experienced only little or no growth due to heavy discounting common during tough times," said Forrest Didier, managing director of ACNielsen Media International, Asia-Pacific.

"This is a far cry from the same period last year when many markets reported high double-digit growth," he added. *(See Table 1.)*

Table 1. Year-on-year Asia Pacific Advertising Expenditure

	January-June 2001 YOY 2001/2000	YOY 2000/1999
Australia	-2.4%	14.7%
China	12.6%	44.1%
HongKong	5.0%	21.1%
Indonesia	24.4%	45.6%
Malaysia	8.1%	29.2%
New Zealand	1%	9.1%
Philippines	19.7%	17.4%
Singapore	4.8%	28.5%
South Korea	-6.7%	35.2%
Thailand	8.9%	24.8%
Vietnam	4.3%	38%

**Slight increase from 2000/1999 but little or no growth due to heavy discounting*
SOURCE: ACNIELSEN MEDIA INTERNATIONAL

Across the region, China remained the biggest advertising market despite slowing growth. The $5.3-billion China market is now twice as big as South Korea, which shrunk to $2.1 billion, following contractions in spending over two consecutive quarters. *(See Table.)*

Didier said the advertising markets were not short of competitive dynamics despite slower overall growth with consumer products and telecommunications the two major drivers in individual markets.

Table 2. Asia Pacific Advertising Expenditure, January-June 2001

	AdEx* (US$ Million)
Australia	1,497.2
China	5,364.6
HongKong	1,810.7
Indonesia	334.1
Malaysia	385.6
New Zealand	339.4
Philippines	632.8
Singapore	412.2
South Korea	2,126.2
Thailand	573.8
Vietnam	49.1
TOTAL	13,515.7

Advertising expenditure estimates are based on market rates and according to industry accepted standards in each country, but are subject to agency discount agreements that are confidential and vary across media sectors and markets
SOURCE: ACNIELSEN MEDIA INTERNATIONAL

In the Philippines, Coca-Cola, San Miguel and Mead Johnson increased advertising spending by 57 percent to 99 percent. Keen competition in the soap category also saw Unilever, P & G and Colgate Palmolive raising their advertising spending for the category.

However, the overall advertising market has slowed and heavy discounts were offered to maintain the level of advertising.

In China, pharmaceutical products continued to lead the advertising market, as Chinese consumers adopted an increasingly modern and health-conscious lifestyle. Tonic and vitamins remained the msot advertised category but spending has declined 13.5 percent.

Overall market growth, based on rate cards, slowed to 12.6 percent from 44 percent a year ago and heavy discounting also impacted on actual billing.

In Thailand, the mobile phone war drove 10 percent growth in the second quarter. Between the two main operators, AIS and TAC, they accounted for half of the 10 most advertised brands in the market.

In Malaysia, advertising by the telecommunications sector grew 11 percent during the first six months over the same period last year. The four carriers—Celcom, Digi, Maxis and Telekom Malaysia—were all listed among the 10 biggest advertisers.

Digi led all advertisers in increased advertising investments, spending 48.5 percent more than in the first half of 2000.

In Indonesia, personal care products such as shampoo, soap and deodorant accounted for five out of 10 most advertised brands as a result of keep competition led by Unilever and P & G.

Private car and motorcycle advertising surged 125 percent, in the second quarter as Korean, Japanese and Chinese manufacturers took advantage of government policy that encouraged import of economic models. Garuda Indonesia Airways became the third most advertised brand after increasing advertising five-fold during April to June in an image-building campaign supporting corporate restructuring.

Singapore had a most dynamic half-year, with the deregulation of the media industry spurring advertising investments by the media owner themselves. The launch in May of Channel U and TVWorks, both owned by MediaWorks, a subsidiary of the newspaper giant SPH, sparked an advertising and marketing war between MediaWorks and incumbent MediaCorp.

ACNielsen Media International monitors advertising expenditure in major media, providing an indiciation of the state of the industry based on market rates across the Asia-Pacific region. The figures are compiled according to indsutry accepted standards within each country and represents the industry's best estimates, but are subject to agency discount agreements that are confidential and vary across media sectors and markets.

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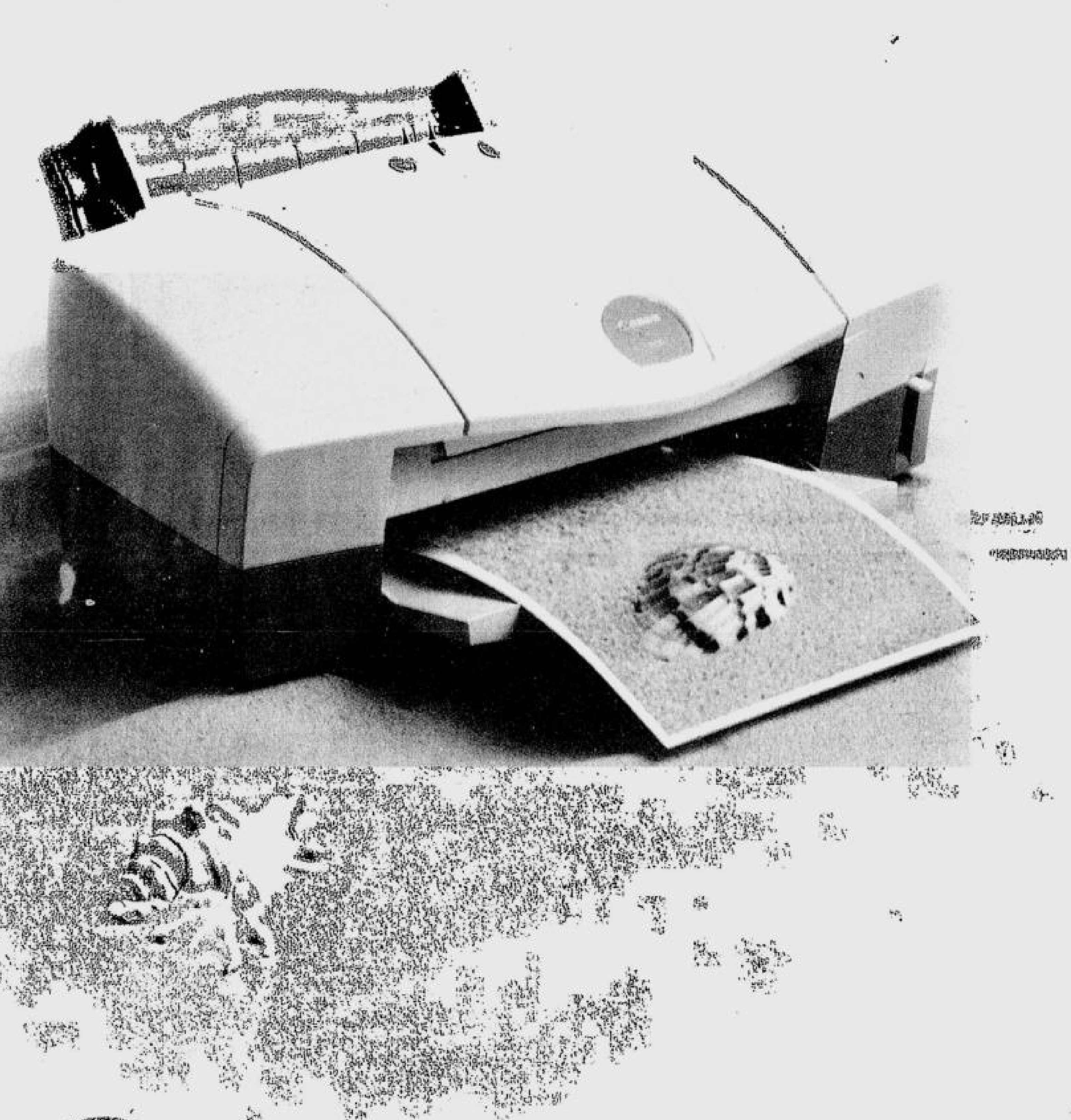

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Competition calls for three 'rights'–goods, stores, times

(From page C1)

National Bookstore is the Philippines' largest bookstore chain and has been in operation for more than 50 years with over 40 branches all over the country. It has cemented its place in the retail industry by offering the widest selection of books and school/office supplies under one roof.

Its dominance remains but different aspects of its business face challenges. On the books side, there is Page One from Singapore, which opened a huge store at the Rockwell Power Plant.

There are also small shops which focus on school and office supplies.

Cecilia R. Licauco, vice president for purchasing, says National Bookstore has not embraced a very high tech method of supply chain management as the market does not seem to be ready for sophisticated supply chain management software.

National Bookstore, however, manages to keep prices competitive by making suppliers compete against each other for the chance to put their products in the National Bookstore network.

"We buy directly from abroad for the books and then we tap local suppliers for the school and office supplies. We feel that it is the best way to keep prices down. We can demand low prices because we have the distribution," Licauco explains.

It has also inked exclusive distribution deals with some publishers such as Simon and Schuster and some titles from Golden Books and Prentice Hall.

"Our major buying periods would be from end-February to early March in time for the back to school sale and then again just before December," she says.

National Bookstore tries to keep abreast of the demands of the consumers by investing in a point-of-sale system that gives the backroom operations the necessary data to know which products sell in a particular store.

She says to bring down costs, it is the suppliers which keep the bulk of the inventory.

Licauco says she believes it will take a little more time before National Bookstore invests in a sophisticated supply chain management software or even tap the Internet for e-commerce, saying that the market is not yet ready.

"Our system is still working for us now but when we are ready then we will go into e-commerce and use the Internet more. I believe we can do this because we have a good relationship with our suppliers. We have been working with some of them for about 50 years," she adds.

Golden ABC

While other retail companies are still coming to terms with new developments on the Internet, Golden ABC, the distributor of the popular teen apparel brand Penshoppe and Oxygen, has invested in a supply chain management system provided by German software company SAP.

Dino A. Sagun, Golden ABC vice president for sales, says in an interview that the owners invested in the software system to keep track of its 400 stores spread across the Philippines.

"The system allows us to download all the sales data from all the stores and we sort it out at the back office and then process the data. The data allows us to keep track of the products that sell and don't sell," Sagun explains.

With this system, Golden ABC realizes that purple shirts sell better in the southern island of Mindanao than in Manila.

Golden ABC is the only clothes retailer so far that has invested in the resource management system of SAP.

"We are starting to reap the benefits of the system because we minimize incidents of running out of stock because this means lost sales opportunity for us. At the same time, we lower our inventory levels so we get to lower our costs," Sagun says.

Before Golden ABC migrated to the SAP system, Golden ABC relied on the intranet system and the e-mail to keep track of sales. Sagun says it was not very scientific, unlike the new system that puts some science to the data extracted from the daily sales reports from the stores.

"With over 400 stores, it is very important for us to keep track of the sales from each store because we have to keep prices down. Competition is getting very stiff so we have to keep our prices competitive," he adds.

He, however, says the system is not yet end-to-end as the software system does not yet include the suppliers.

Golden ABC entered the garments industry in 1986 and has carved a niche in the fickle teenager market. Following its flagship brand Penshoppe is Oxygen, which will be followed by new brands over the next years.

Sagun says Golden ABC also invested in the new IT system to prepare itself for the franchising, and eventually expanding overseas. He, however, says the suppliers are not yet included in the system.

He says it will take some time before the suppliers will be comfortable putting their operations online and linking with Golden ABC or other retailers.

Next challenge

Prestipino of Oracle says there remains many challenges for the supply chain to go from end to end. The problem does not lie in technology, he says, but rather the belief in the system.

"True collaboration requires network-wide disclosure of inventory levels, workflow processes and capacity," Prestipino says.

Providing homes for Filipinos for the past six years

SIX years ago, a man had a vision of providing a roof over every Filipino family as he observed that given the proper incentive, a Filipino *padre de familia* will work hard to get his family that home.

But it was not to be just any house; it was to be a home that had the features at a price that was acceptable. This summarizes the basic tenet that Crown Asia was founded on in July 1995 by businessman and now Sen. Manuel B. Villar.

And Crown Asia has not wavered from this commitment.

"This has allowed the company to offer homes and subdivisions that are beyond comparison with those from other companies and also to weather trying moments in the real estate market," said Marcelino C. Mendoza, Crown Asia's charismatic and untiring chief executive officer.

When Crown Asia opened its first project—Granwood Villas in Quezon City—it set itself apart from other developers with an aggressive marketing strategy that made it well-desired by consumers and well-received by brokers and agents.

The campaign concentrated on providing their sales network materials they needed and marketing events—grand openings, open houses, buyer's and investors' day and property exhibits—where the network can show clients Crown Asia's houses and subdivisions.

Mendoza said their network has shown total commitment to Crown Asia because "they see us redoubling our efforts to help them when the market is on the downside."

Of particular interest to Crown Asia's sales network are the regular selling and marketing seminars organized by the property developer. These not only help their sales efforts, but have also enhanced their confidence in themselves and their abilities.

Partners in housing a nation

Admittedly, the sales network is one of the major factors why Crown Asia continues to be the benchmark in the real estate industry. But there are other members of this "circle of six partners" as Mendoza likes to describe their relationship with the other associates that constitute Crown Asia.

The five other partners are the employees, marketing subsidiaries, contractors, suppliers and financing institutions.

Mendoza said the marketing subsidiaries—essentially auxiliary offices that lend support to marketing events—and employees work together with the sales network in reaching the goal of selling properties.

"I am particularly proud of our young and dynamic employees who work long, hard hours to fully assist the sales network and this in turn inspires them to double their selling efforts," Mendoza emphasized.

Contractors and suppliers have also done their part in keeping Crown Asia the leading developer in its class by assuring that they supply Crown Asia only with the best materials, equipment and men.

The ample support of financing institutions such as RCBC, Keppel Monte Bank and iBank have made owning Crown Asia house an attainable goal for many people. The institutions can offer a variety of payment schemes because it translates to more clients for them due to the tremendous appeal of Crown Asia's properties to its market.

Better houses

Given the above formula for market leadership, Crown Asia has been able to replicate this success nationwide through a number of subdivisions in the key cities in the northern and southern Philippines.

Crown Asia's houses and subdivisions readily meet the market demand for "affordable luxury" because of the firm's careful and constant attention to the market.

Mendoza admits to this as a plus factor but avers that by making a home that is luxurious and affordable "we have been able to turn into reality what our countrymen have always dreamed of—buy a house for their families to live in."

He adds that Crown Asia does not just construct houses, but build communities that have been methodically planned out—from the location of the subdivision to the mapping out of the roads, utilities and amenities and the proper embellishment needed in keeping with the particular ambience or theme of the estate. The master planned development emphasizes Crown Asia's commitment to building self-contained communities that have been planned from the first shovel of dirt to be dug to the last stroke of paint to be applied.

Crown Asia's commitment does not end with the construction of the subdivision and its houses. The developer also makes arrangements with the subdivision's homeowners association for the appointment of a property manager that will oversee the maintenance work and even waste disposal to keep the subdivision at its optimum.

"What we offer is not just a home, but an entire self-contained community and that means value for money for our particular market who have probably worked long and hard to buy their dream home," Mendoza said.

Crown Asia is set to ground break a minimum of six major projects scattered in the north and south of Metro Manila as well as in all the major cities—Cebu, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo and Pangasinan before yearend.

Do ads talk . . .

(From page C2)

consumer relationship.

Know more about the consumers. The 17th Philippine Advertising Congress, to be held once again in the country's Queen City of the South, Cebu City, will focus on them.

Aside from President Macapagal-Arroyo, who will be the keynote speaker, foreign luminaries and experts in their fields will grace this year's biggest gathering of advertising, marketing and media practitioners.

Paul Temporal, a global expert on brand creation, development and management, and author of best-selling branding books such as "Corporate Charisma," "Strategic Positioning," "Branding In Asia and Hi-Tech," "Hi-Touch Branding," will speak on the topic "Romancing the Consumer." Tim Tyler, founding chairman and managing consultant for Peppers and Rogers Group Asia, the company he used in order to bring pre-eminent management consulting practice to the booming Asian market, will share his ideas on "One-On-One Marketing."

Some topics lined up in the Ad Congress are "Kids Say The Darndest Things," "The Connected Consumers," "Creativity: Asian Perspective," "The Emerging Gray Market," "OCW: Dollar earner, Peso Spender" and many more.

The congress will be capped by Ad Awards blight, a tribute to the country's best advertising in print, radio and television. For more information, please call the Ad Congress secretariat: Adboard-8186158.

(The author is vice president of the Creative Guild of the Philippines and member of the jury, 2001 London International Advertising Awards.)

Red Bull: Mix of style and substance

LONDON—Red Bull, the wildly successful energy drink whose possible health effects are the subject of a Swedish investigation, is at least as much style as stimulation.

Containing less caffeine than a double espresso, along with traces of taurine, an amino acid occurring naturally in human breast milk, Red Bull's energy kick could also be derived from a spoonful of sugar and a headache pill containing caffeine.

Frequently mixed with vodka by clubgoers into a cocktail known as a Friday Flattener, Red Bull has become a massive marketing success since its introduction in Europe 14 years ago.

Its "Gives You Wings" slogan has propelled sales to over a billion cans annually. Certainly, its tangy, sweet bubblegum tang is an acquired taste.

But brands that live by publicity, die by publicity, so news that a team of doctors at a Stockholm hospital is to investigate the deaths of three people, allegedly immediately after having consumed Red Bull, risks clipping its wings for good.

There is no scientifically proven link, and it is far more likely that the three Swedish deaths, along with that of an Irish basketball player last year, were caused by exertion or pre-existing medical conditions.

The possibility that alcohol could have played a part will be a major thrust of the Swedish probe. The country's National Food Administration has advised against using energy drinks after exertion, particularly in combination with alcohol.

"At the moment, as a precautionary measure it's enough to advise the public against using energy drinks to quench thirst or in connection with alcohol," said Anders Glynn, head of the toxicology division at the food and beverages watchdog.

"If there's a connection proven (between energy drinks and negative side-effects) then we might have enough to take some legal action," he said.

The company denies any connection between these cases and drinking Red Bull.

Although the effects of taurine have not been extensively researched, an Irish study found last year that the amino acid could dilate blood vessels around the heart.

Caffeine's effects as a stimulant are well known, but the moderate quantity of the substance in Red Bull has come as a disappointment to many an Internet geek looking for energy to carry on surfing way past bedtime.

This is key—take away the mystique surrounding Red Bull and you have a perfectly ordinary drink, one which has been sold in Thailand for many years before being "discovered" by Austrian Dietrich Mateschitz and turned into a marketing concept.

Mateschitz still owns 49 percent of the Red Bull company, with the original Thai owners of the formulation holding the remaining 51 percent.

The mystique surrounding the drink's powers are part of its success. For example, Red Bull has been rumored to contain a mystery stimulant, namely testosterone derived from bull's semen. This is nonsense, but it's all good publicity.

So good, in fact, that Red Bull accounts for well over half of the $135 million US energy drinks market, despite fierce bullfighting from brands from the Coca-Cola and PepsiCo stables.

Britons bought 260 million cans of the drink last year, making Britain Red Bull's largest single market, closely followed by the United States. Fiona Mollet of the company's British arm told Reuters there were no plans to restrict sales.

"No one anywhere has ever proved a tie between Red Bull and harmful effects. There's been rigorous scientific testing, and we're sure we have a safe product."

But surely the company is aware of the way the drink is used as a mixer in clubs.

"It's sold as an energy drink. The fact is, people mix it with all kinds of things. How and when people consume it is up to them. These cases in Sweden—who knows what else they had that night?" *Reuters*

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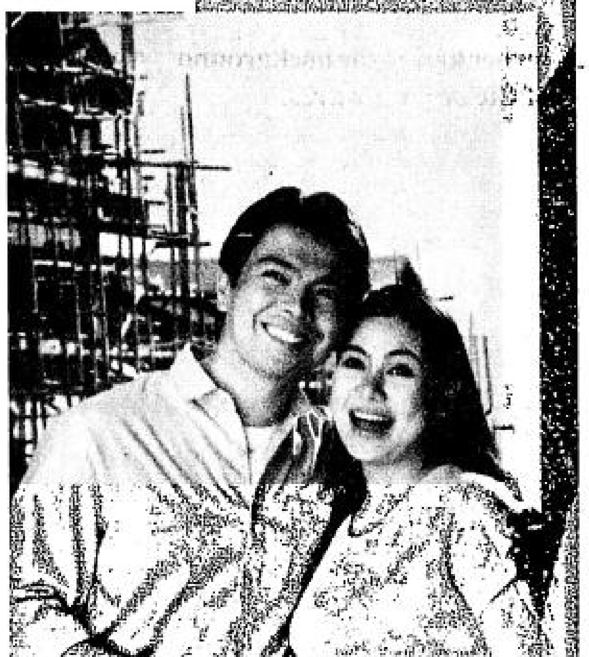


In any community, there's always been someone who takes on the role of padre de familia. Someone who considers what the greater good needs, listens to your family's concerns, and through his divine wisdom, leads with a gentle hand.

For six years, Crown Asia, the country's largest and most successful real estate developer, has led families home. Because for them, it's never been about building houses – it's always been about building homes for your family and for countless others across the nation.

As a pioneer Master Planned Community (MPC) developer in the Philippines, Crown Asia has always been committed to the development of an upgraded line of residential community projects. By doing so, it fulfills its mission to "afford the country the ballast of hope and the impetus for sustained economic growth."

For these reasons and more, Crown Asia is proud to celebrate six years of building master-planned communities where people just like you live.

Satisfaction Guaranteed

Your home is sacred ground. And at Crown Asia, we leave no stone unturned in providing you the perfect home. Because of our six years of building flourishing lived-in communities, we've mastered the art of listening to our customers and paying attention to their needs. Just ask any of the more than 10,000 families who now proudly call Crown Asia their home.

Commitment to Service

Building a community that people will naturally flock to requires a commitment to providing unparalleled customer service. Whether it's completing construction according to schedule, delivering titles, or ensuring that amenities are completed on time, Crown Asia remains committed to developing communities homeowners can be proud of.

Form and function combined

Crown Asia takes great pride in being able to marry beauty and comfort in its projects, offering diverse opportunities integrated into single self-sustained, environmentally responsible communities. Our homes feature designs of enduring excellence and recognized value so that each homeowner is assured of both aesthetically appealing and functional homes that are aptly complemented by first class amenities and facilities.

Covers the Nation from North to South

Crown Asia is the pioneer Master Planned Community developer in the Philippines. So far, it has been able to build more than 5,000 houses in various subdivisions all over the country. In Metro Manila alone, there are already numerous established communities from north to south. In whatever part of the country you happen to find yourself, even outside this bustling metropolis, Crown Asia is also known for having a strong presence.

Unmatched sales network

Key to building the country's best lived-in communities lie in the people who help families like yours find their dream home. Our core of high caliber professionals comprise the biggest sales network in the industry with international offices, marketing subsidiaries, more than 3,000 accredited brokers and approximately 20,000 property consultants.

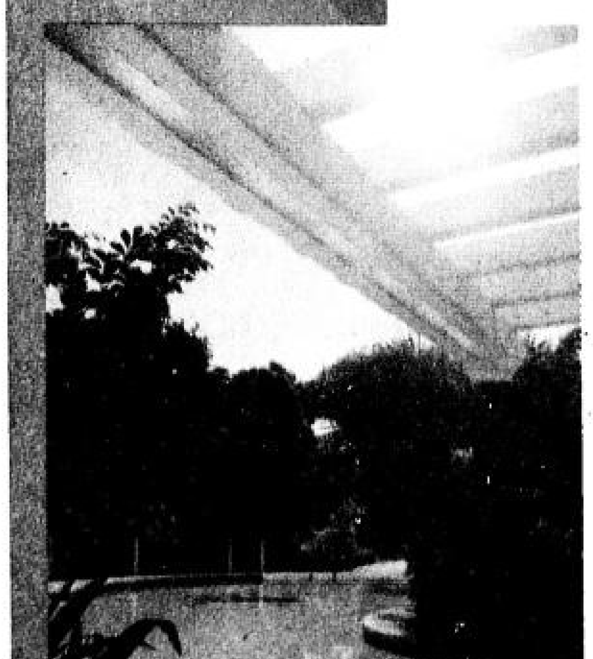
Creates a vision for the future

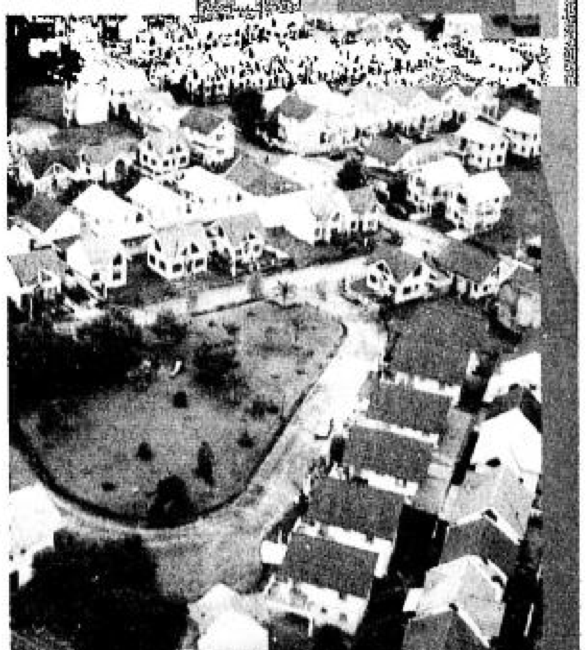
Crown Asia has never been content to rest on its laurels. Today, we at Crown Asia continue to work towards a greater goal: to provide the millions of Filipinos across the country with world-class communities.

To meet this grand dream, we hope to break new ground with more new projects nationwide scheduled before the end of the year.

Flourishing communities. More than 1,000 homes. More than 10,000 satisfied families. 6 years. Leading the way home has never felt so good.

For more information on how you too can find your way home to Crown Asia, please call 726-0083/84 or 873-6709/566-5590 or visit our website at www.crownasia.com.ph.





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LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ■ MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ, Subsection Editor

WELCOME to an oasis in the city.

Soul's sanctuary in a soulless city

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

ACCORDING to interior decorators and style arbiters, a home reflects good taste if the objects are displayed in their proper context and if the owner knows the background of the *objets trouvés*.

There lies the charm of this home, owned by an investment banker and his Burmese spouse. The couple knocked down an old house in a Makati subdivision and renovated it into a tropical oasis, furnishing it with Asian heirloom pieces. Ten years ago, architects recommended a modern Western box adorned with European furniture. But the lady of the house, whose passion is decorating, wanted to live in a well-ventilated space with greenery and furnished with possessions close to her heart. She eschewed the pretentiousness of gilding or baroque lines.

SOUL'S/ p.D6

BACK garden simulates the tropical rainforest. *Travesias* are used to hold up the staghorn ferns. Local table is a copy of the slatted beds from Thailand. The fruit is laid on a traditional Burmese offering bowl.

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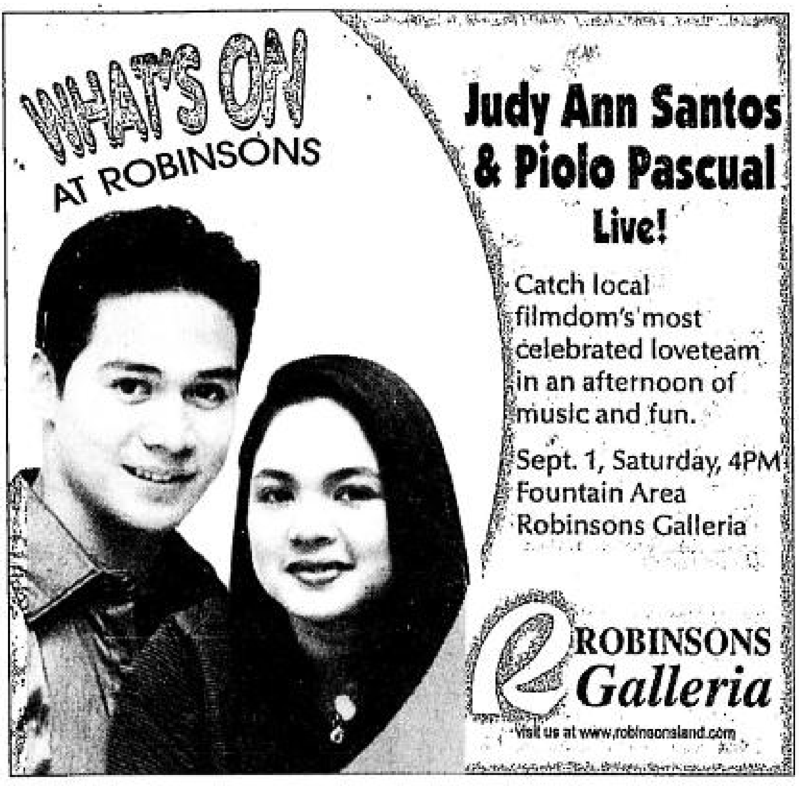
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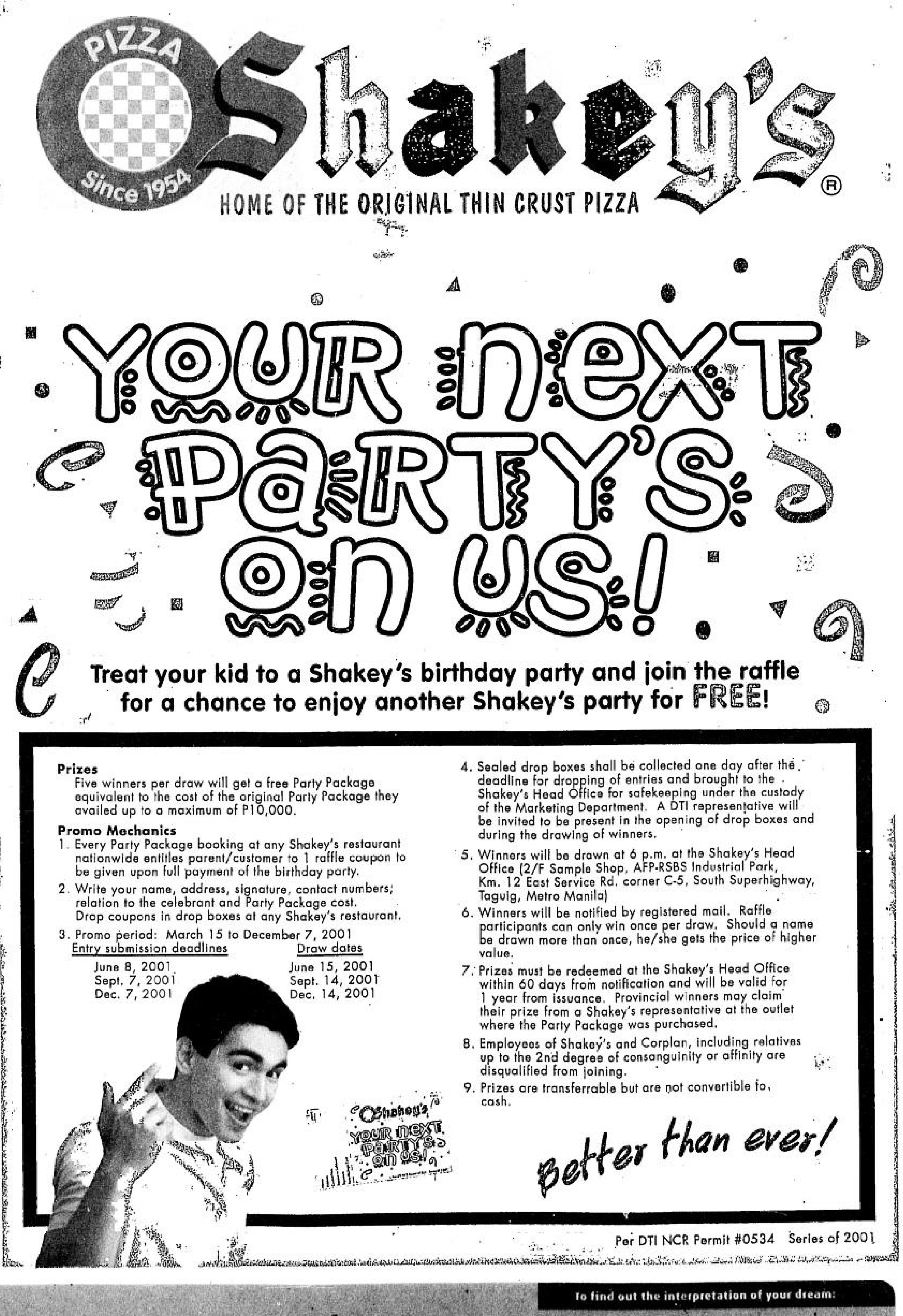
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Promo Mechanics
1. Every Party Package booking at any Shakey's restaurant nationwide entitles parent/customer to 1 raffle coupon to be given upon full payment of the birthday party.
2. Write your name, address, signature, contact numbers; relation to the celebrant and Party Package cost. Drop coupons in drop boxes at any Shakey's restaurant.
3. Promo period: March 15 to December 7, 2001

Entry submission deadlines	Draw dates
June 8, 2001	June 15, 2001
Sept. 7, 2001	Sept. 14, 2001
Dec. 7, 2001	Dec. 14, 2001

4. Sealed drop boxes shall be collected one day after the deadline for dropping of entries and brought to the Shakey's Head Office for safekeeping under the custody of the Marketing Department. A DTI representative will be invited to be present in the opening of drop boxes and during the drawing of winners.
5. Winners will be drawn at 6 p.m. at the Shakey's Head Office (2/F Sample Shop, AFP-RSBS Industrial Park, Km. 12 East Service Rd. corner C-5, South Superhighway, Taguig, Metro Manila)
6. Winners will be notified by registered mail. Raffle participants can only win once per draw. Should a name be drawn more than once, he/she gets the price of higher value.
7. Prizes must be redeemed at the Shakey's Head Office within 60 days from notification and will be valid for 1 year from issuance. Provincial winners may claim their prize from a Shakey's representative at the outlet where the Party Package was purchased.
8. Employees of Shakey's and Corplan, including relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining.
9. Prizes are transferrable but are not convertible to cash.

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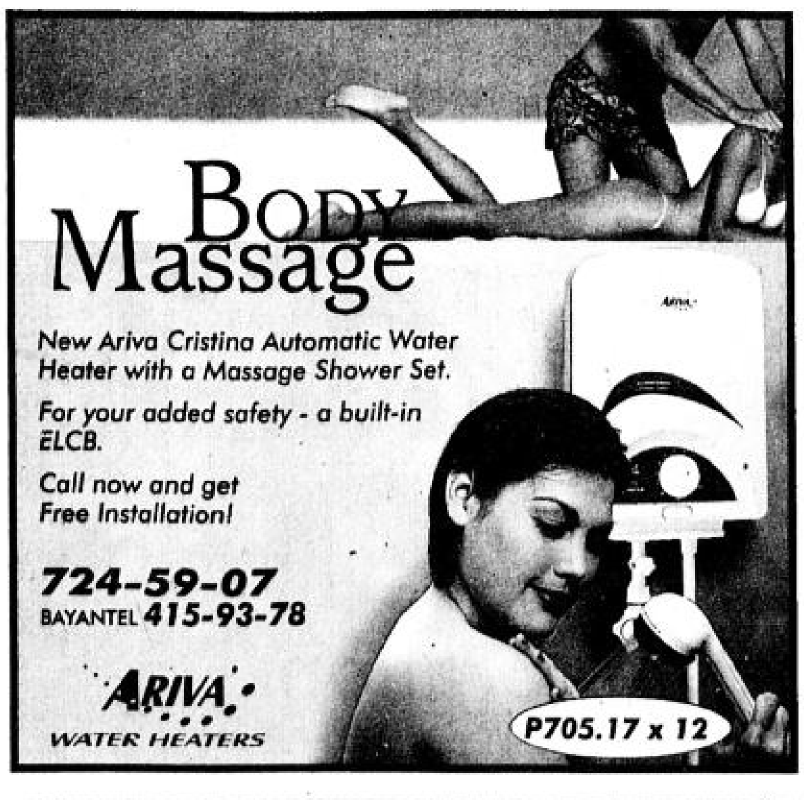
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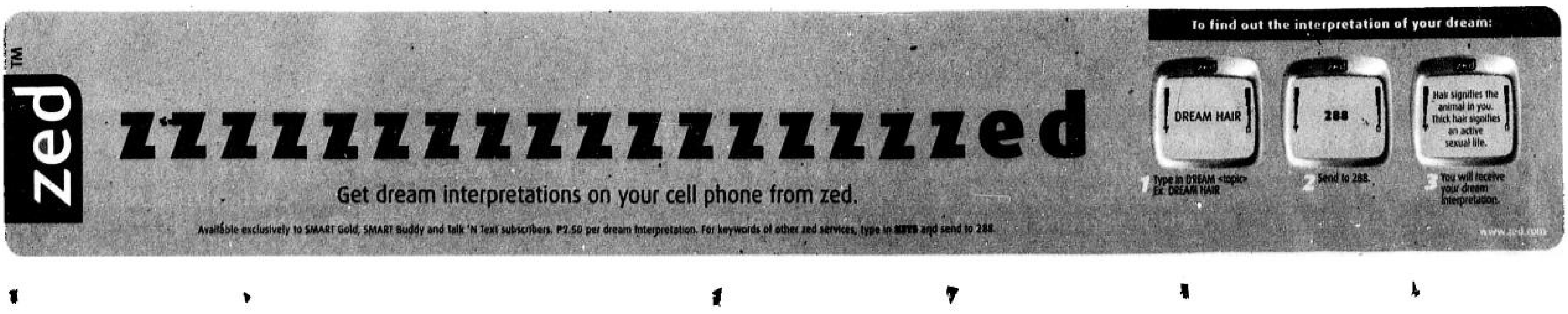
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POS celebrates 55th year with orchid show

THE PHILIPPINE Orchid Society celebrates its 55th year with an exhibit of native species and hybrids of orchids done by Filipino scientists and horticulturists. The exhibit will be held at the Quezon City Memorial Circle's Halaman Area near the Commonwealth entrance from Aug. 31 to Sept. 9. The show's theme is "Save the Species for a Better Environment," and the main focus is the world-famous *waling-waling* or Ewanthe Sanderiana, the parent of most modern vanda hybrids. This, together with other species, which used to be rare, are now out of danger of being extinct because of the effort of Filipino hybridists to save them.

Overall show chair Rex Fuentespina says many members of the Philippine Orchid Society are presently breeding and producing these orchids in the laboratories. In fact, many of the orchids to be displayed and sold in the show are products of their lab works.

The show intends to impart to the public the right way of handling and caring for orchid species and hybrids through lectures, demonstrations and plant clinics, Fuentespina says. The schedule of lectures and their speakers are: Sept. 1, Phalaenopsis Species and Hybrids by Dr. Vicente Saplala of UP Los Baños and Green and Grow Inc.; Sept. 2, Philippine Vandaceous Orchid Species and Hybrids by Kelvin Manubay, POS 1st vice president; Sept. 3, Orchids in New Trends of Flower Arrangements by Renee Villanueva; Sept. 4, Orchid Propagation Techniques; Sept. 6, How to Care for the Species by Andres Golanco Jr. of Wild Roots Orchids Phils. Inc.; Sept. 8, Orchid Growing for Beginners by Wilhelm Ortalis, former POS president; Sept. 9, Noteworthy Philippine Orchid Species for Propagation as a Hobby and Business by Norby Bautista of Rizal Technical University, Mandaluyong City.

There will be guided educational tours of the exhibit for groups of students and schoolchildren who will visit the affair. A commercial section was opened on Aug. 26 to coincide with the 13th anniversary of the Quezon City Parks Development Program. A big number of commercial growers and nurseries will offer orchids and ornamental plants, and garden-related materials will be sold at discounted prices.

There will be big cash awards and trophies for the best landscaped booths and best plants in the exhibit, says POS president Rolita Spowart. Those interested to become members are encouraged to join and enjoy many privileges like monthly field trips and lectures, free reading materials, etc. Membership forms will be available at the secretariat booth or call Jenny or Bing at 523-3061, local 240.

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A GET-TOGETHER of Maryknoll College alumnae and Miriam College Administrators held recently at the residence of Dolly Bagasan Montes in Greenhills, San Juan. Standing, from left, Rosa Paragas, Evelyn Nera, Dr. Alell Sevilla, Mila Magsaysay Valenzuela and Dr. Glenda Fortez. Seated, from left, Dr. Mila Golez, Tessie de Leon Ortiz, Cynthia Concio Atencio, Dolly Bagasan Montes and lawyer Ramon Bagasan

DANCE WITH FLAIR

The Perry Sevidal Ballet Recital 7, held on June 23 at the CCP Little Theater, featured "Paquita" danced with ardent Spanish flair and precision by the school's advanced students. The PSB Studio, located at Ramer Building 7373 Bakawan St., SAV, Makati City, can also be reached through 894-1239 and (0917) 525-5370. The school offers ballet for all levels as well as kids' and adult jazz handled by Marissa Aboitiz. School director Perry Sevidal, formerly of Ballet Philippines, teaches all levels using her unique method of combining professional-level performance and disciplined class instruction.

75 years of blue and gold

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA

THINGS are abuzz at the all girls' Miriam College as it prepares for its Diamond Jubilee on Sept. 8. Though much of the landscape has changed and there are now several new buildings, what was once known as Maryknoll remains the most beautiful and greenest campus in Quezon City (thanks to Sr. Marisa Lichauco).

The High School and College Jubilee Class of 1976 host this year's celebration and they have lined up an array of events and activities to mark this milestone in the school's history. Dubbed as "75 Years of Inspiration," the mini exposition showcases the talents and expertise of Maryknoll/Miriam alumnae throughout the years.

The whole-day affair begins with registration at 9 a.m., followed by a Homecoming Mass at noon to be held at the second-floor chapel. The traditional alumni lunch is at 1 p.m. to be followed by the jubilee program at 2 p.m. Simultaneously throughout the day there will be several exhibits on campus.

Miriam marks its diamond anniversary

The lower lanai will be the site of the "Amazing Alumni Achievers" exhibit, which celebrates the legacy of Maryknoll alumni who have made significant contributions in society through their various endeavors. Above it, an exhibit on the complete history of Maryknoll-Miriam College from 1926 to the present and a Uniform Gallery featuring how the grade school, high school and college uniforms have evolved throughout the years will be on display.

At the Marian Auditorium lobby, Sr. Virginia Fabella will launch her book, "Maryknoll Sisters in the Philippines," at an exhibit that will also feature works by renowned alumni authors. There will also be a product bazaar showcasing goods and items designed and crafted by Maryknoll alumnae (Tootsie Moreno-Vicente's handcrafted jewelry, Ria Benedicto-Villavicencio's Vigan products, Caress de Castro-Banson's "The Kitchen Shop," Christina Ancheta's "Paper Alley," Dita Sandico-Ong's designer accessories, among others).

The Metro Manila Community Orchestra, led by Coke Bolipata, which makes its home at Miriam College, together with the MMC Ballet Center, will be giving performances from 9:30- 11:30 a.m. A videotheque will show especially produced videos that chronicle the MMC history featuring the HS batch of '76. A surprise dance video by an MMC Jubilarian will be shown as well.

"Women in Healing" will have alumni doctors (Coralie Dioquino-Dimacali, nephrology; Anna Treichler-Borgaily, developmental pediatrics; Leila Trinidad-Halum, acupuncturist; Diana Alcantara-Payawal, internal medicine, among others) conducting examinations and consultations. For the sporty types, there will be a specially installed archery range and lessons courtesy of Philippine Archery Olympic coach Carla Ramos of HS Batch '76.

This year's celebration promises a wide selection of activities and events that will surely bring back many fond memories spent on the green campus that is Maryknoll-Miriam College. After all, a diamond anniversary comes but once and for alumnae of Maryknoll-Miriam, it's certainly worth celebrating.

For more information or to preregister, call the alumni office at 426-0170/0173 or log on to www.mc.edu.ph

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DESPITE the renovations of various owners, the elements of this 1936 house-turned-gallery have been retained.

THE AVELLANA ART GALLERY

New art 'lives' comfortably in this old house

By Cathy Saldana-Nolido
Photos by Chito Vecina
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

IN A GENTEEL neighborhood of wide, open front lawns and old stately homes, an art gallery in a section of Manila close to the border of Pasay City has quietly gained prominence.

Walled in and identified only by its signage outside, a visitor immediately experiences that feeling of being in a gallery upon entry. An unmistakable style speaks eloquently of the fine renditions and sculptures within, painted and crafted by a mix of artists that the gallery hosts. ranging from prominent names to those who are just beginning to make their mark.

Indeed, art has found a home in this old house. But it took the keen eye of artist and gallery owner Albert Avellana to reinvent wonderfully this gracious structure that was actually built in 1936. Its original owner was an American who worked in the country. It was then purchased by a Chinese businessman before it was bought and restored by fashion designer Rusty Lopez. Rusty lived in the house for years until Albert Avellana transformed it into its present form, an art gallery.

Rusty Lopez's imprints

A veranda lined with tapering columns leads the visitor to the main glass doors that replaced what used to be a bedroom window. The main exhibition area is well-lit, with a clean spread of white walls to form a backdrop for any artwork. This was formerly the masters' bedroom. Its spacious bathroom is now open for the gallery visitors' use, its old sunken bath now filled with *otap* stones, glistening against a field of old white tiles.

The old windows have been retained, their ironwork intact, etched perfectly within the narra frames. Rusty Lopez placed old narra planks on the living area floor, now a main viewing area for sculptures, mobiles and artist-crafted furniture.

A pair of tall wooden doors leads to Albert's office where an art mobile, smartly lit, forms a perfect source of illumination for an old wooden desk and computer. Crafted by Hilde Orye, it radiates color from any angle. Here, in what used to be Rusty's atelier and personal studio, Albert has created a spot for transacting business and keeping records.

The fashion designer's shelves and file cabinets have been retained, set against the original high partitions of the old house. The main living and viewing area is two-story tall, with the stairway curving in one corner to a second floor open storage, sitting room and exhibit studio, its dimensions and adjacent bath reminders of the guest room it once was.

Accent lights

On an Impy Pilapil table is an arrangement of pottery by Carmela Laganse. Located right beside the stairs, this set of earthenware cleverly echoes, whether intentional or serendipitous, the patterns of the balustrade. A chandelier drops from the high ceiling to illuminate the various art pieces that dot the floor. Accent lights and focus lamps direct the eyes to hidden corners and small nooks where more works of color, texture and form provide true visual splendor. Here in this spacious area, Rusty's piano has stayed on, which art lovers who also like to sing can use as accompaniment to their songs.

The kitchen has been retained, though its lighting has been enhanced. Now cleverly decked with utilitarian works of art such as Castillo's fine glass bowls and plates and a set of narrow, antique narra shelves, there is always a cup of brewed coffee and a glass of red wine ready for a patron and customer to enjoy while walking through an exhibit.

The wide eaves have also been retained, the roof structure and shape essentially intact. A row of columns near the glass door has not been touched, its entablature firmly planted on stone flooring. Rusty added the columns to match the existing architectural character.

Albert, however, has added a retractable canopy of silver canvass to shield the living space from the harsh afternoon sun. Evident in the way the house has been transformed and its use modified is a deep reverence for preservation here. The thick sections of ironwork form an intricate pattern that defines the style and character of the house. The dimensions of doors and windows go beyond today's standards, emphasizing the glorious, grand design eras of the past. Albert plans to host future workshops and craft sessions in an old concrete structure near the gate.

Host to exhibits

The gallery is host to a stream of steady exhibits and regular shows. In this old house, artists also come to mingle among themselves and with visitors over coffee. But as with any structure, it is the warmth of the occupants that gives the place its true, intangible essence. Albert's genuine love for the arts provides the Avellana Art Gallery with much zest. He is descended from a line of artists and teachers. Albert's family and relatives have gained prominence in film, literature, visual arts and in advertising. His mother was an educator while his father, a sound engi-

NEW/p.D5

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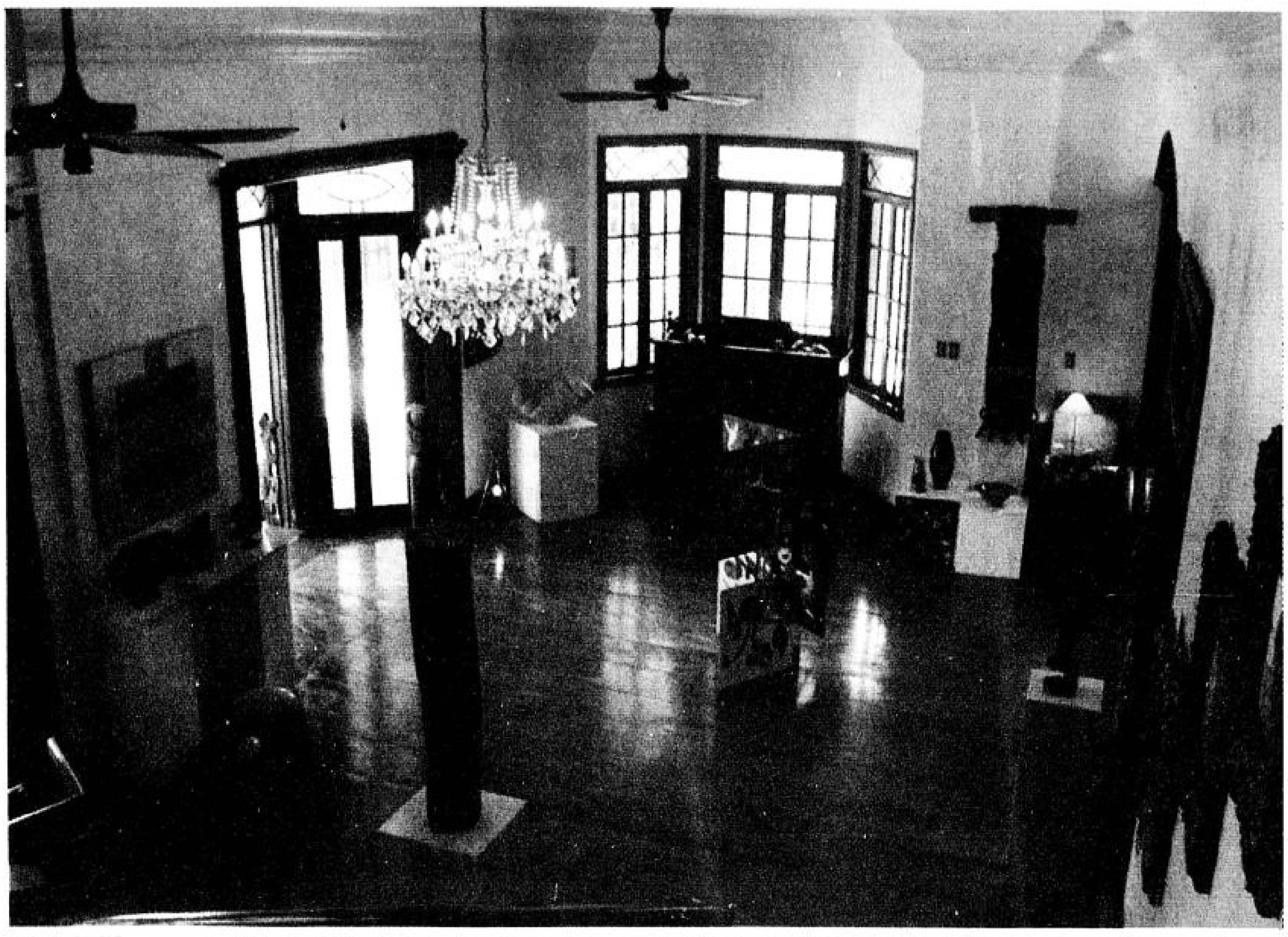

ARTWORKS are arranged in nooks and corners instead of long, antiseptic hallway.

New art 'lives' comfortably in this old house

(From page D4)

NEW/p.D7

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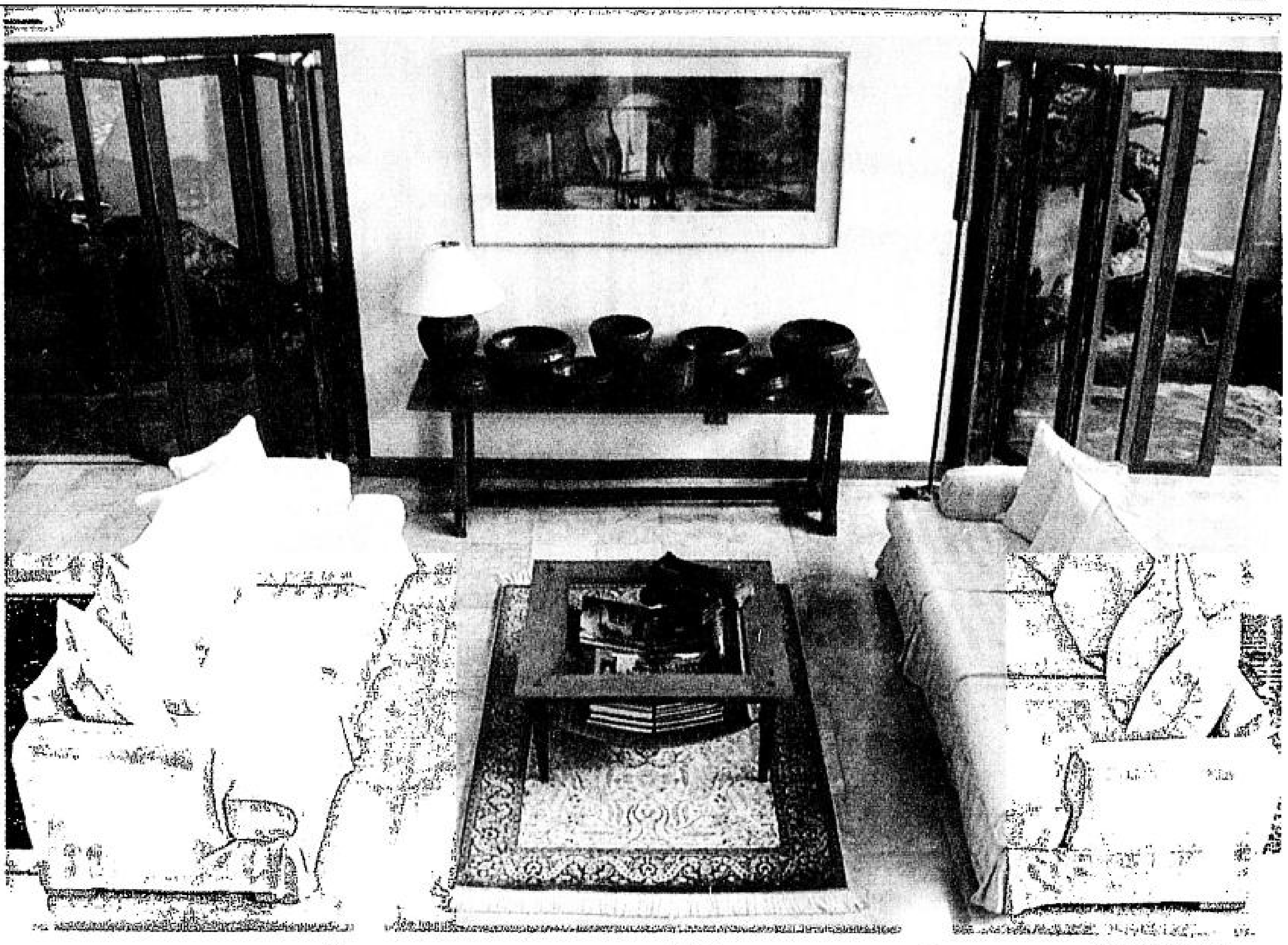
Featured Recipe: FRUITY CHICKEN SALAD

INGREDIENTS:
250g San Remo Spirals
2 cups chicken, cooked and cubed
5 stalks celery, sliced
2 red apples, cubed
1 cup seedless grapes, halved
2 cups pineapple tidbits, drained
1 cup mandarin oranges, drained
3/4 cup mayonnaise
2 tbsp. milk
1 tbsp. sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
dash of ground black pepper
dash of ground nutmeg

PROCEDURE
1. Cook pasta according to package directions. Chill with cooked chicken.
2. Mix chicken, celery, apples, grapes, pineapple, mandarin oranges and pasta in large bowl.
3. Mix mayonnaise, milk, sugar, salt, a dash of pepper and a dash of nutmeg.
4. Combine mayonnaise and chicken mixtures and toss. Serve chilled.

For more exciting and appetizing recipes log on to www.san-remo.com.au or e-mail us at sysumktg@info.com.ph

HIGH ceiling, clerestory windows, pocket gardens, a neutral color scheme make for a tropical home. In the foreground are Burmese offering tables.



VIEW from the mezzanine of a balanced symmetrical arrangement and a play of light and dark. The collection of Burmese lacquer containers is set atop a trestle table from Bohol. Beside it is a sculpture by Johnny Alcazaren. Complementing the trestle table is the *narra* and glass coffee table. The neutral color of the furniture contrasts the warmth of wood.

Soul's sanctuary in a soulless city

An investment banker and his Burmese wife have conjured a tropical oasis with heirloom pieces and pocket gardens amid Makati's drab grays

(From page D1)

The home suggests the atmosphere of a tropical rainforest. The two-story public area is surrounded by pocket gardens. Who would think of growing a banana tree in the heart of Makati? Although it's orthodox, it dovetails well with the tropical rainforest concept. Adding color to the arrangements of *dapo*, *pakpak lawin* and giant ferns are *rosal*, bromeliads and varieties of ginger flowers.

Pocket garden

A *narra*-and-glass door opens to an enclosed pocket garden, which was built at the height of the El Niño phenomenon. The plants, such as wild ferns, davalia, bromeliads and calatheas, provide a cooling effect and soften the massiveness of river stones. Rainforest plants from Quezon grow on pieces of decaying bark that are entwined with vines. For special effects, there are misters and sprinklers to simulate the atmosphere of a jungle.

The sounds of wind chimes, gushing water from the fountains and birds chirping make one forget the place is in the middle of a humid and polluted district.

Set against a background of miniature bamboo ferns from the Cordilleras, lemongrass, which is used for cooking, staghorn ferns and indigenous plants, is the verandah furnished with unique Asian finds.

There is a unifying theme in the home. Most objects have been used for religious rituals, be they *azucenas* that are found in every Indonesian temple, elegant, antique offering tables and containers or even a commissioned artwork. A Burmese lacquer table was used to store the scriptures. Complementing the Buddhist relics are *urnas* and *santos*, which are discreetly placed.

On the mezzanine is a corner for Buddha. Food and flowers are offered so that they can be purified and eaten with love.

The ceremonial bed used by an abbot stands out for its luxurious details and coverings of Burmese handwoven fabrics.

Antique and modern

The lady of the house chose antique pieces that blended well with the modern elements of the house. Among her serendipitous finds on her trips were corded lacquer vases made from beaded gum resin. On a trip to Burma, she found an insertion of grilled gate that depicted an officer on horseback. It was put in the gate of a home in Rangoon to commemorate the officer on horseback making his visits to his Anglo-Burmese mistress. There are other finds such as Martaban jars that stored fish and oil and used for trading more than 300 years ago. There are local finds, such as a slatted table from Vigan, a lime-washed, terra-cotta statue of Confucius and a *mulawin* table.

A coffee table is cleverly decorated with unique finds such as stools laden with rice servers from Borneo and a bowl filled with glass bowls, antique silver pieces such as a Prohibition flask for whiskey, and opium weights.

Vignettes are a mixture of modernity and antiquity. A valance of *okir* art complements a modern chair.

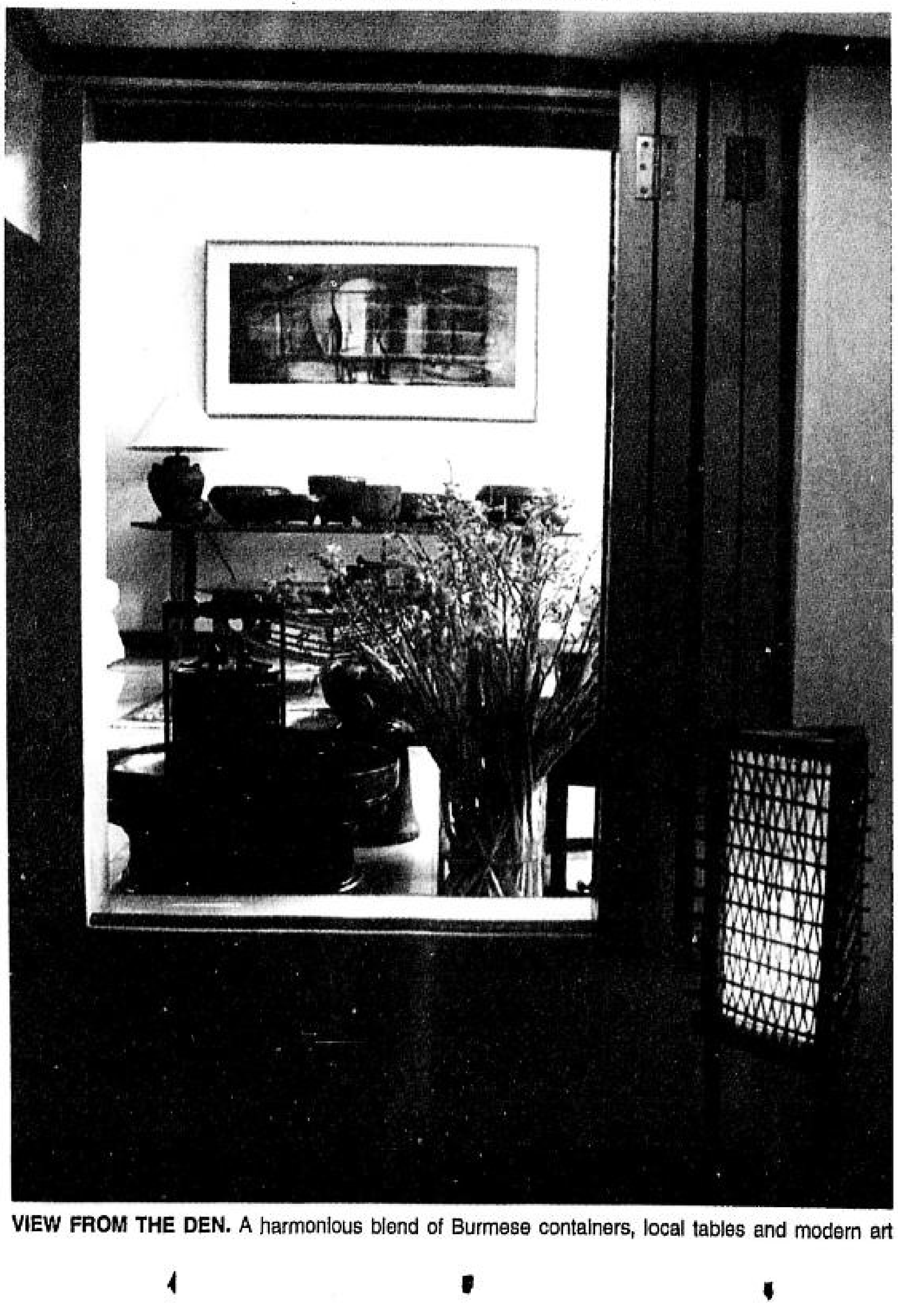
The lady collects artworks that have soul. She has turned down Filipino masters in favor of works with soul. She is fascinated by the works of Rene Robles, a proponent of Assertionism. He was commissioned to do a painting on the Shwedagon Pagoda, the center of worship in Burma. The images also depicted the profound with the profane, what with monks and cockfights in the same frame. The warm tones pick up the color of the lacquer collection placed beneath the canvas.

She also collects paintings by Hermes Alegre that portray women with powerful expressions. A painting by friend Rachy Cuna, which symbolizes his self-realization, hangs in the den.

More than just a tropical oasis in the busy district, the house reminds visitors that it is a sanctuary for the soul.

EARLY 20th-century ceremonial bed is covered with Thai and Burmese silks. In the background is the terra-cotta statue of Confucius that reflects the owner's affinity with Eastern philosophy.

GARDEN bench is made into a glass-top buffet table. The heads of icons and a Burmese figurative sculpture in teak evoke modernity. Every week, the lady of the house buys fresh flowers such as these *azucenas* in the antique celadon jar.



VIEW FROM THE DEN. A harmonious blend of Burmese containers, local tables and modern art

THE ANTIQUE *molave* door with floral carvings is used as an art piece in the dining room. Beside it is a bull atop an old soil crusher used as a pestle. The Chinese-inspired dining set has been streamlined to suit the owners' taste for simplicity.

THE ARCH emphasizes the high ceiling and spaciousness of the public area, and provides a break from the length and breadth of the corridor.

New art 'lives' . . .

(From page D5)

neer in the film industry, was elevated to the Famas Hall of Fame.

Albert encourages his patrons and guests to walk freely from one exhibit area to another, creating a sense of comfort and providing a warm welcome to an avid collector or a budding lover of the arts. The space is relaxing, a haven behind the high walls outside. Unlike other art galleries where a newcomer may sometimes feel a visual overload, moving around this gallery is just like walking into a friend's home. The mix of lights has softened the walls and potted plants indoors and outdoors create an atmosphere of calmness.

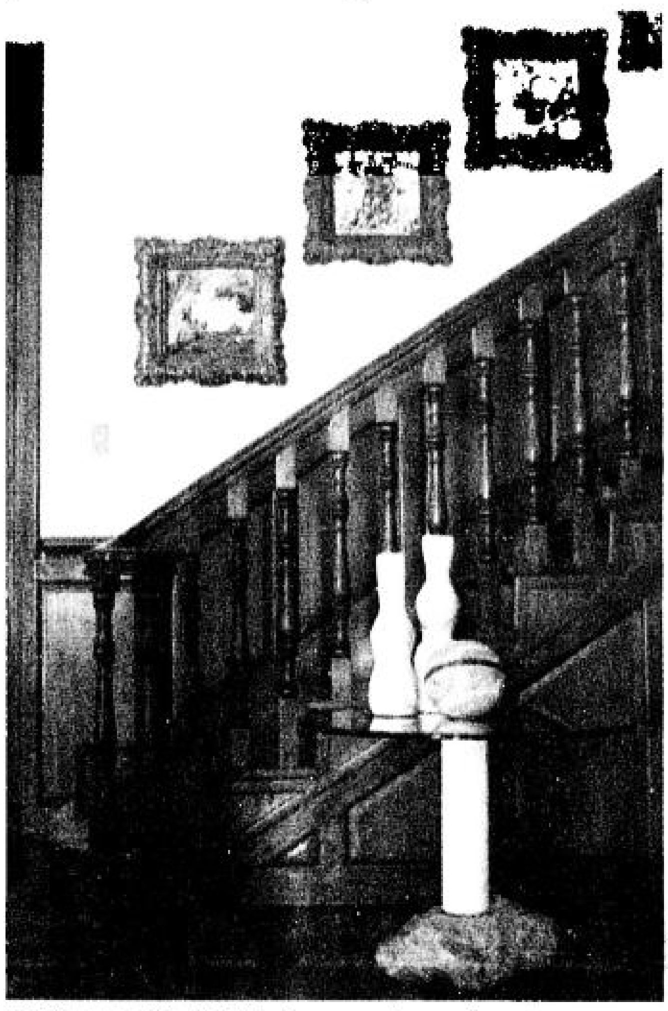
Well-planned renovation

Architectural preservation and well-planned renovation are evident in the efforts to keep intact a structure for future generations. The task of caring for and maintaining old, polished floors and stately windows has been passed on, from an original owner, to a businessman, to a designer, to an artist.

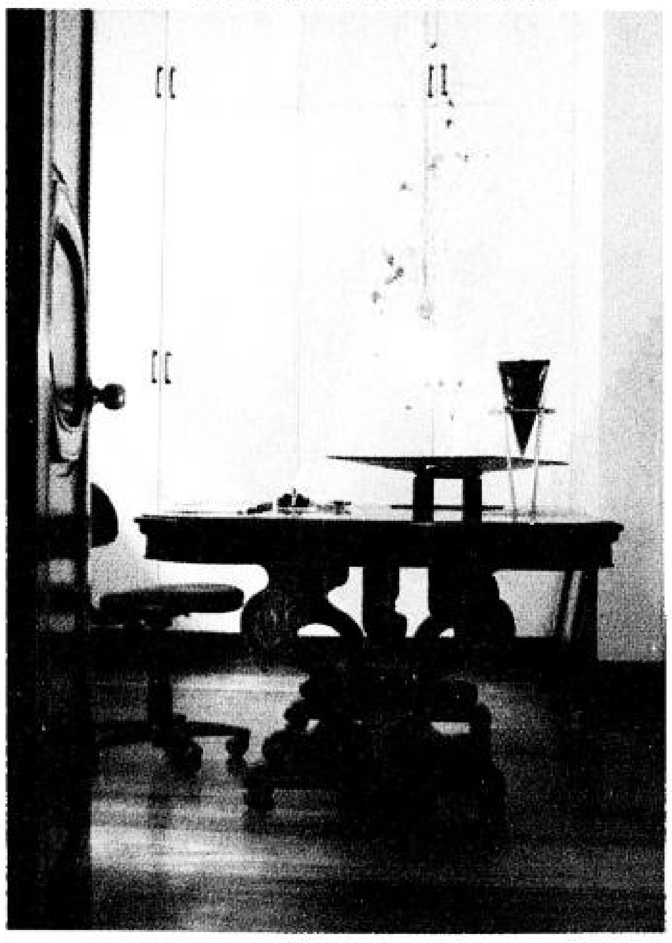
The essence of the old house, its architectural virtues and spirited style, are retained even as a new use for the space brings it fresh perspectives and bolder colors. As mounting sheets are carefully attached to the original walls, making certain that there is no disruption of the old patterns, new art works are put up again and again. Rejuvenation takes place, transformations are absorbed and voids filled. A large canvass breathes new life into a white wall as a 3-ft tall sculpture fills up a corner in the "living" area. As works are replaced and new exhibits mounted, the restorative spirit is once again lifted and gladdened. In this house in the border of Manila and Pasay, art lives, cradled in old architecture.

For private viewings of exhibits, visit the Avellana Art Gallery at 220 Fresno St., Manila. Call 522-9793 to 94

E-mail the author at cnolido@aimonline.org

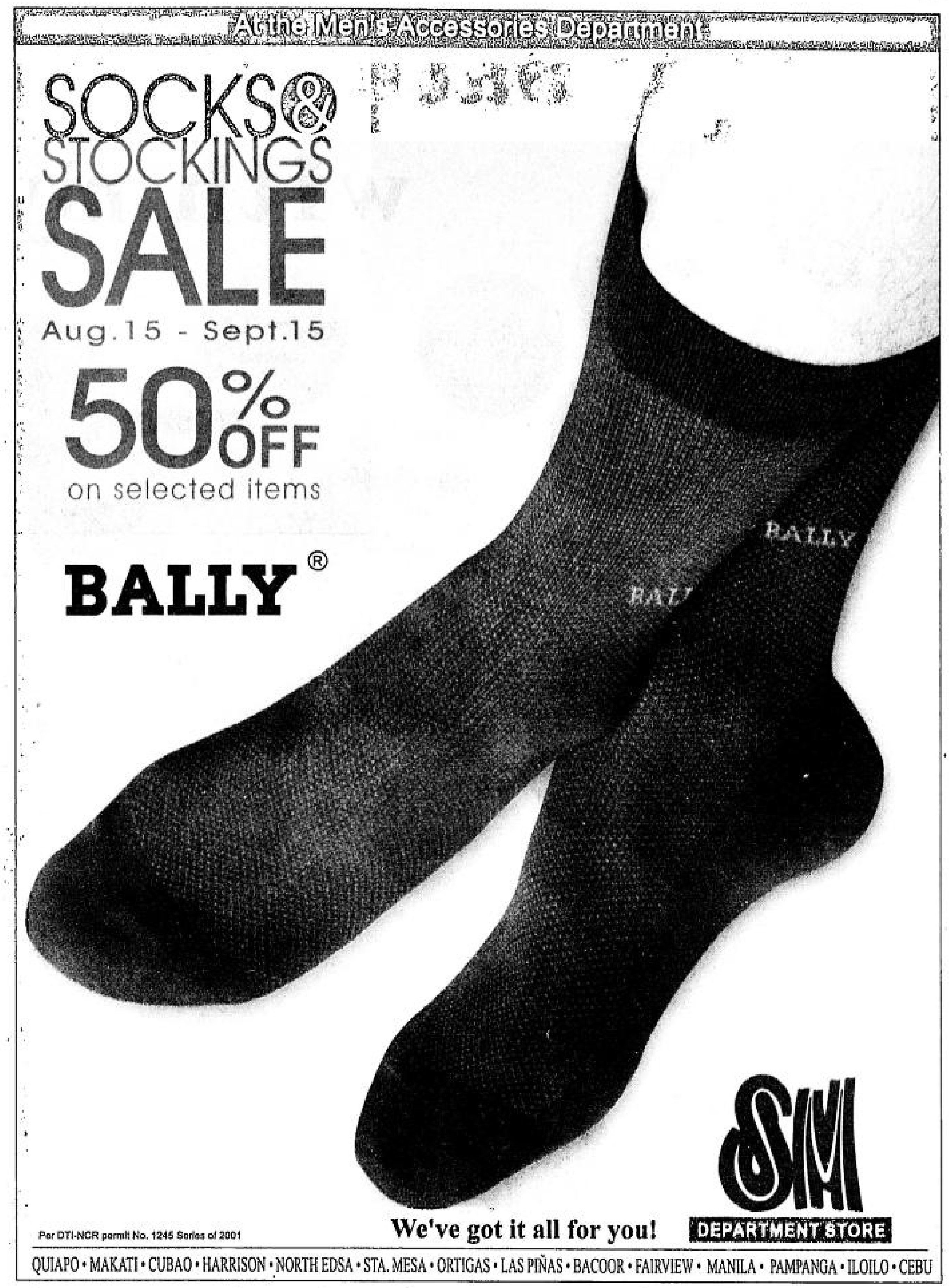


EAST MEETS WEST. Narra and newel posts



RUSTY Lopez worked on this stylized narra table which is now used by the gallery owner. Hilde Orye's lighting mobile adds a whimsical touch.

THE SPACE lends itself to creativity. Even if the art pieces are meant to be shown in a gallery, they blend with the homey environment.



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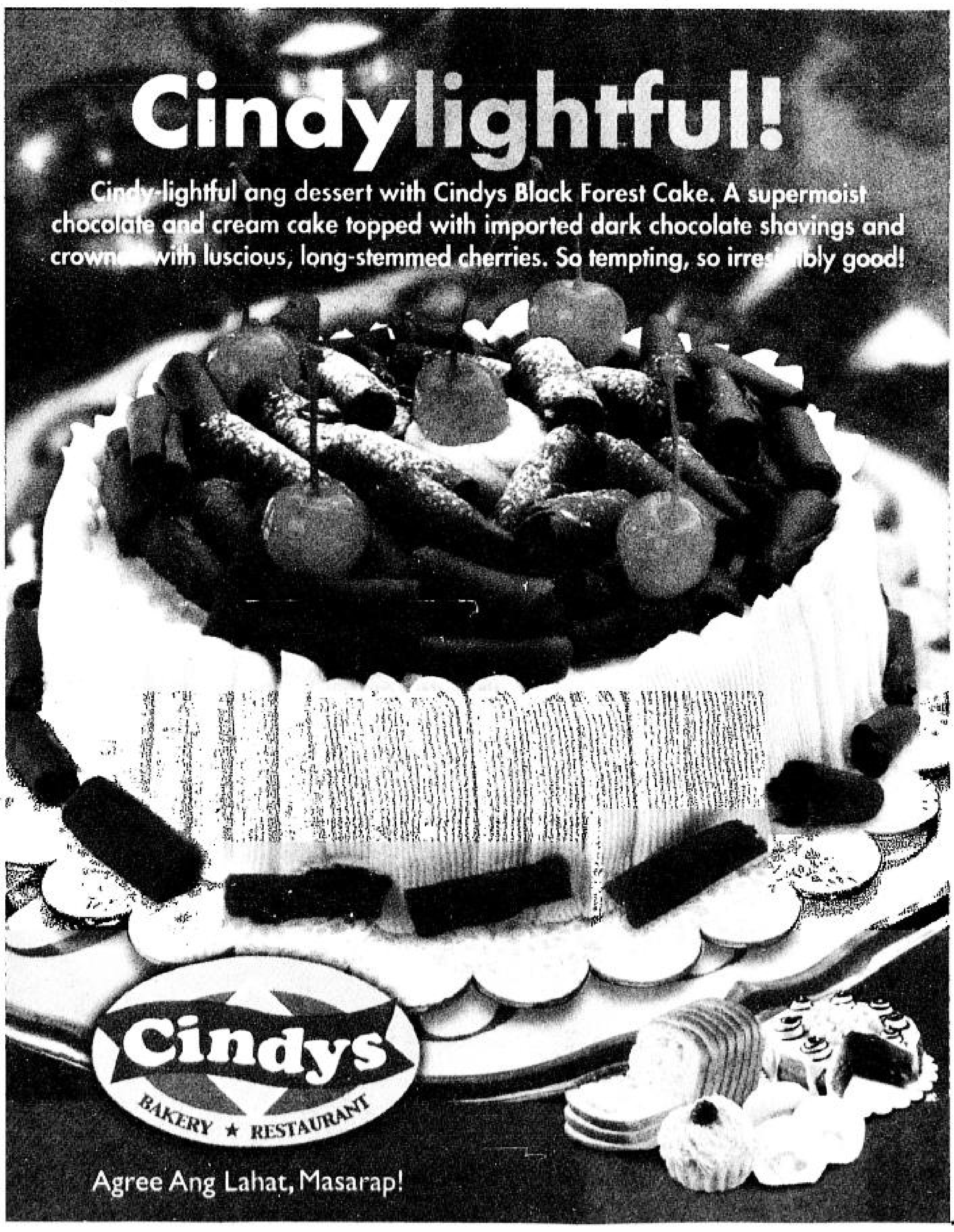

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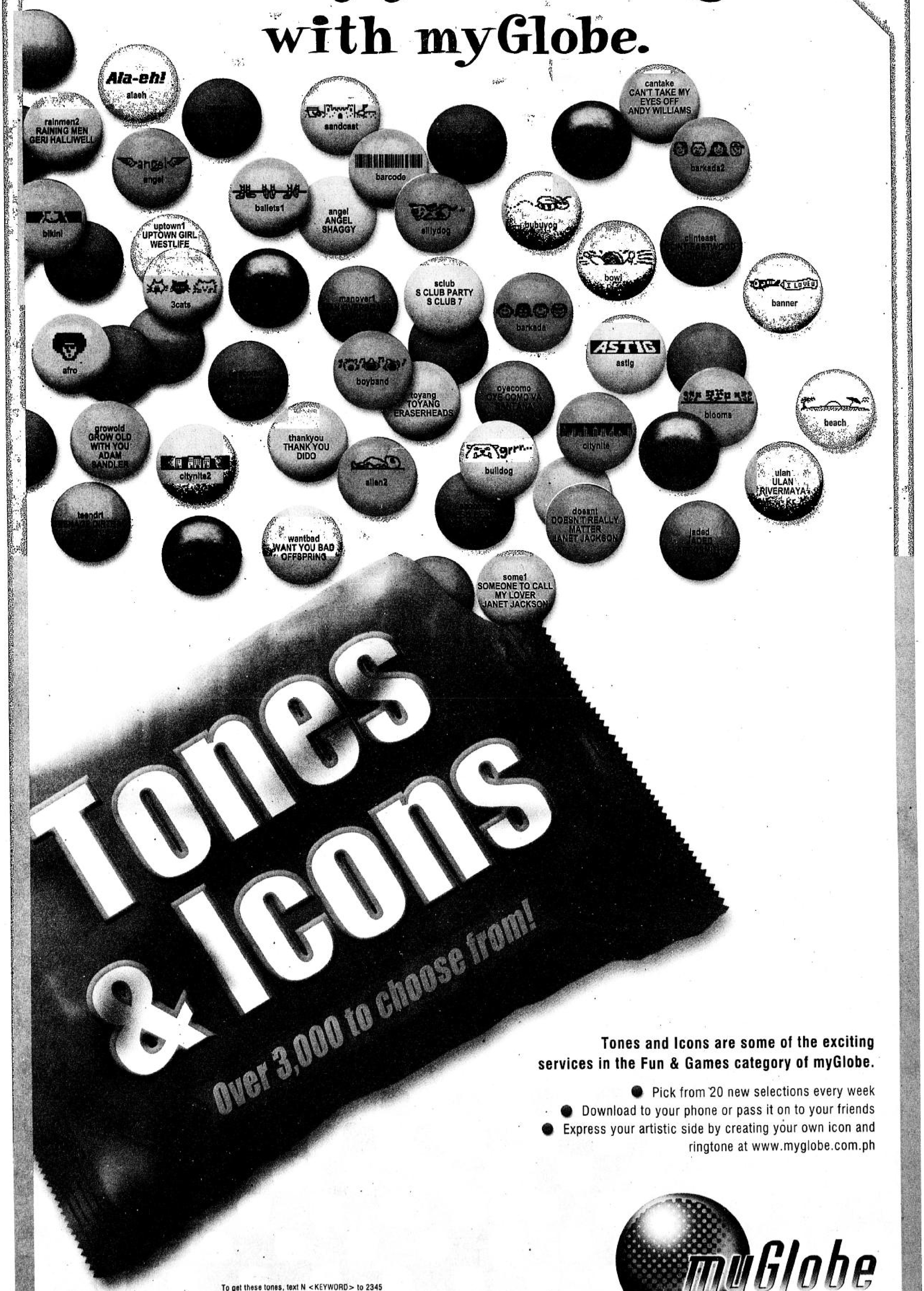
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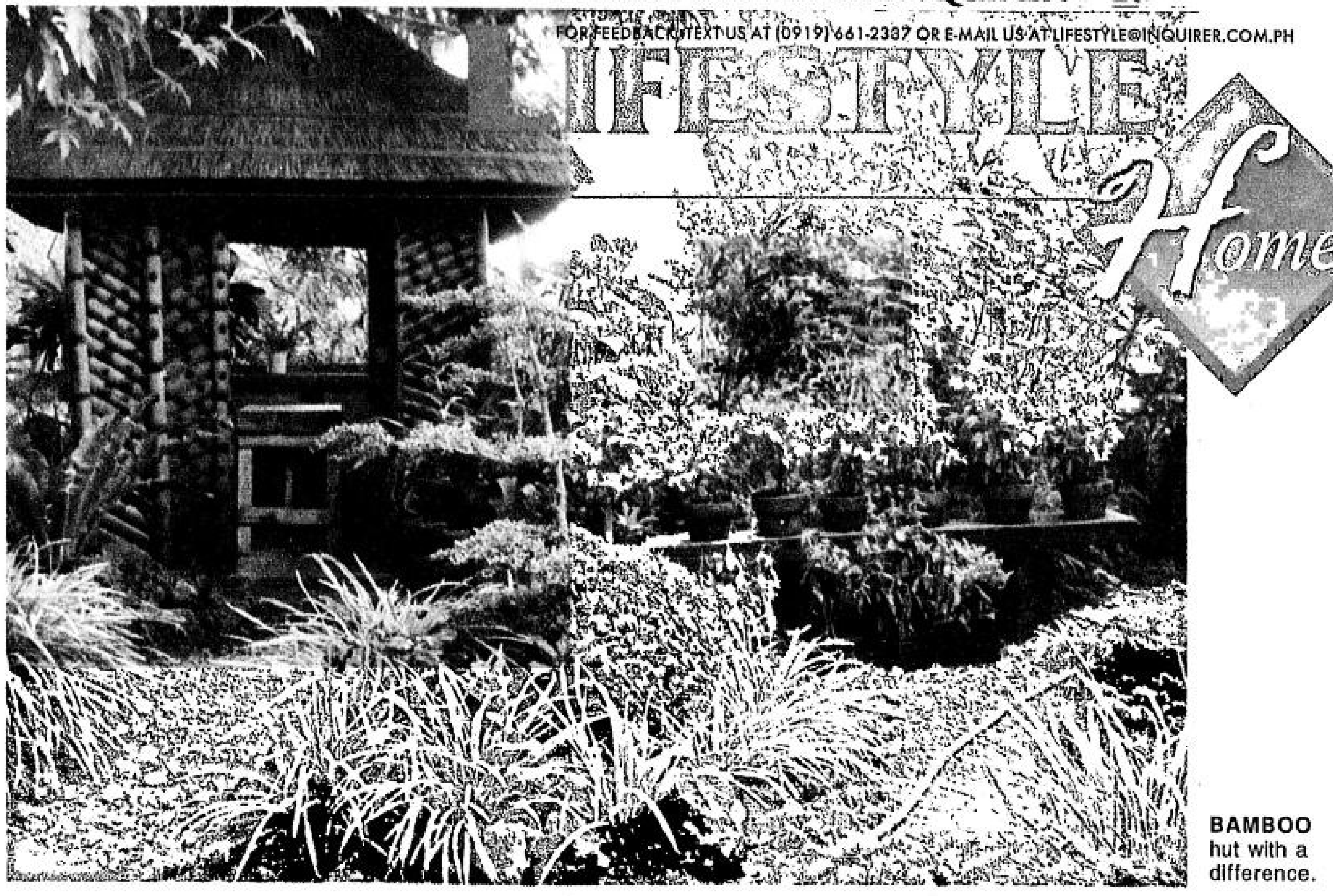

BAMBOO hut with a difference.

Café lifestyle amid the green splendor

BY ADRIAN LIZARES
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

IT is very seldom that one encounters a garden that is immediately accessible. We all know the delight and excitement of visiting a pretty garden. We also know that the best gardens will remain for long remote from our appreciation.

There is, tucked beneath a building by the main road in Tagaytay, a quiet little garden. It is owned by Eric, an Englishman, and Chat, his Filipina wife. The two started the garden along with the business they set up almost three years ago. Before that, the couple would come and visit their friends in Tagaytay frequently, thinking all the time how nice it would be to actually live there. They thought of setting up a café. But Eric believed there should be an attraction to really draw people to the café.

And since Tagaytay's climate is conducive to plant propagation, they decided to set up this garden as an outdoor complement to their café. And they decided to take their time. Slowly as their business was taking shape, their garden was, too. Since it is on the slopes directly beside the main road, it is not immediately seen at street level. The cacophony from passing cars and the racket of motorcycles further obscure the place.

I am convinced that the most interesting garden affairs are the discreet spots, simply waiting—not screaming—to be noticed. The first time I was inside the café it had to take a trip to the little boy's room for me to spy the garden below. Through a tiny window, I spotted it.

Initially I said to myself, well, the owner is Eng-

CAFÉ/p.E6

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Recycled or cheap materials don't cheapen your space if you have a sense of style

How to spruce up a space on a shoe-string budget

By Wendy Fernando-Regalado
Photos by Betoy Johnson

HOW do you decorate a 45-sq m space for P6,000? Get your boyfriend or hubby (or driver) to do the carpentry and painting. Ask *manang* to help with the stitching.

Since there is no floor plan, here are some decorating ideas on a budget by area:

Sleeping area/*sala*

Sleeping mattress doubles as sofa

Picture frames on narrow *palochina* ledge

Lamps are made of 1" x 1" wire mesh frame with tracing paper diffuser. Hang from the ceiling

Dining area

Dining table can be covered with any piece of cloth. Weigh it down with bells, candies in pouches, etc.

Chair backs can be covered with pillowcases, printed or plain.

Kitchen

Spoon hooks for kitchen utensils, mugs, towels, etc.

Screen cabinet doors with embroidery.

The illustrations focus on corners. The drawings show ways to perk up the space. Plastic chairs become attractive with cushions and covers. Edge the tablecloth with little bells.

Here are some fun accessories to spruce up your space.

Spoon hooks

Materials:
Old spoons
Screws
Wood plank
Nails (*pakong bakya*)
Wire (from leftover electrical wires)
Aluminum can
Sandpaper
Screws
Tools:
Pliers
Hammer
Paint brush
Scissors/cutter
Electric drill
Screw driver

- Look for some old spoons. I found baby spoons, odd silver spoons (with no more sets), cheap thin spoons, etc. With the pliers, bend the spoon's handle to form a hook. Some spoons are exceptionally tough so you might need to hammer them to shape. Be careful not to scar the surface. You can cover the spoon's handle with a rag before hammering.
- You can add décor around the spoon using aluminum cans. Cut open the aluminum can with a cutter or sharp craft scissors. With the sandpaper, remove the paint until the aluminum is exposed. Cut the aluminum into shapes such as leaves, zigzag, triangles, lizards, etc.
- Nail the arranged pieces on the board. Attach the spoon hook. You can drill a hole and screw it on the board or drill holes alongside the spoon and attach with a wire.

You can use your spoon hook for your kitchen towels, drying herbs, etc. Make a row of spoon hooks for your collection of mugs.

Picture frames

Materials:
2 pcs 1/8"-thick clear glass of the same size
Binder clips
Silicone sealant/super glue
Double-backed tape
Choice of the following: Memorabilia related to the picture such as stones/shells from the beach, tags/tickets from a trip
Twigs, seed pods, tendrils, dried flowers
Gold powder (from the hardware)
Sanding sealer (from the hardware)
Gift ribbons
Assorted seeds like corn, *monggo*, red beans, white beans, soy beans
Tools:
Scissors
Paint brush

- Buy 2 pieces of 1/8"-thick clear glass of the same

HOW/p.E3

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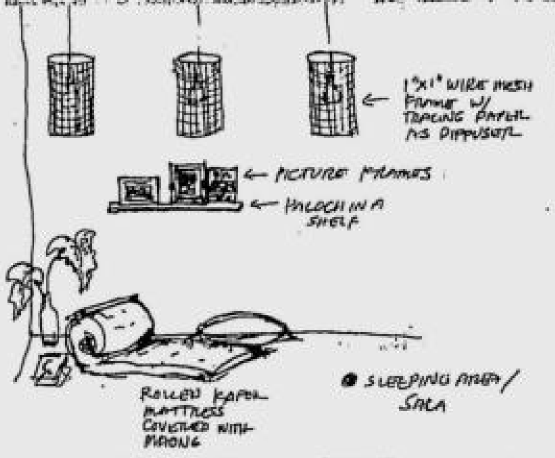
1"x1" WIRE MESH FRAME W/ TRACING PAPER AS DIFFUSER
← PICTURE FRAMES
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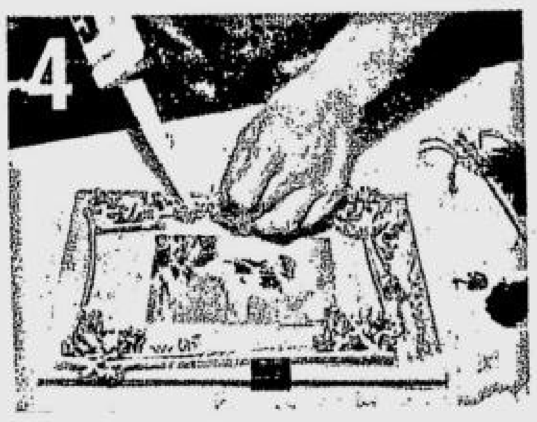
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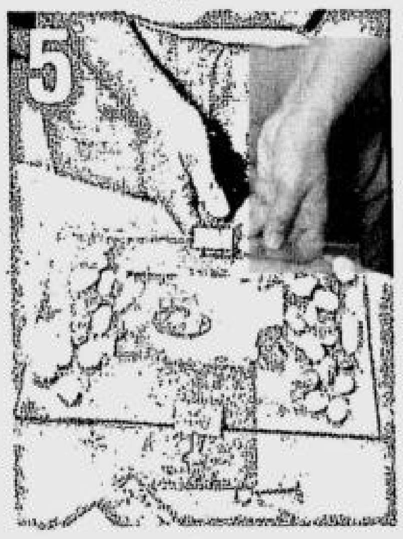
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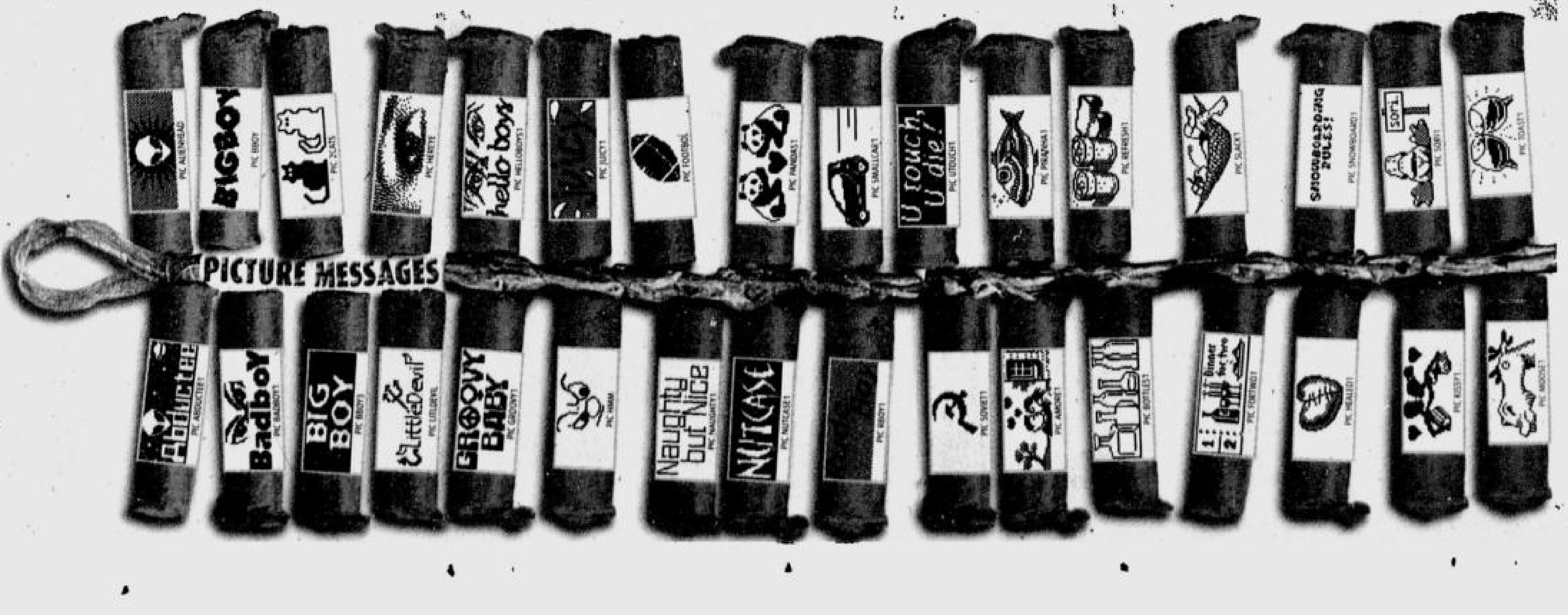
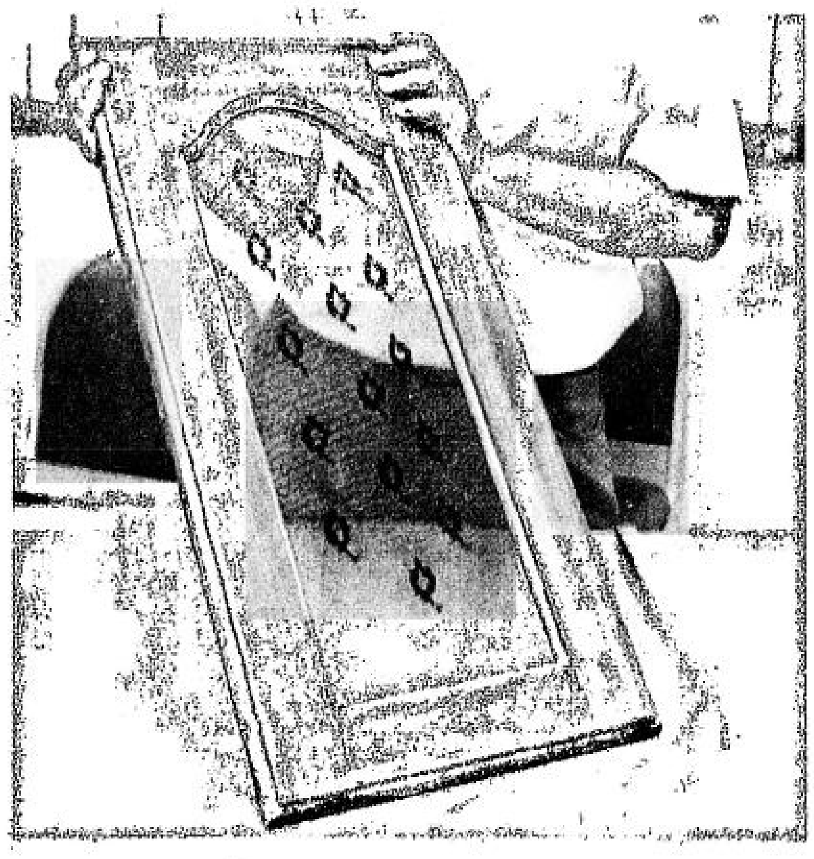
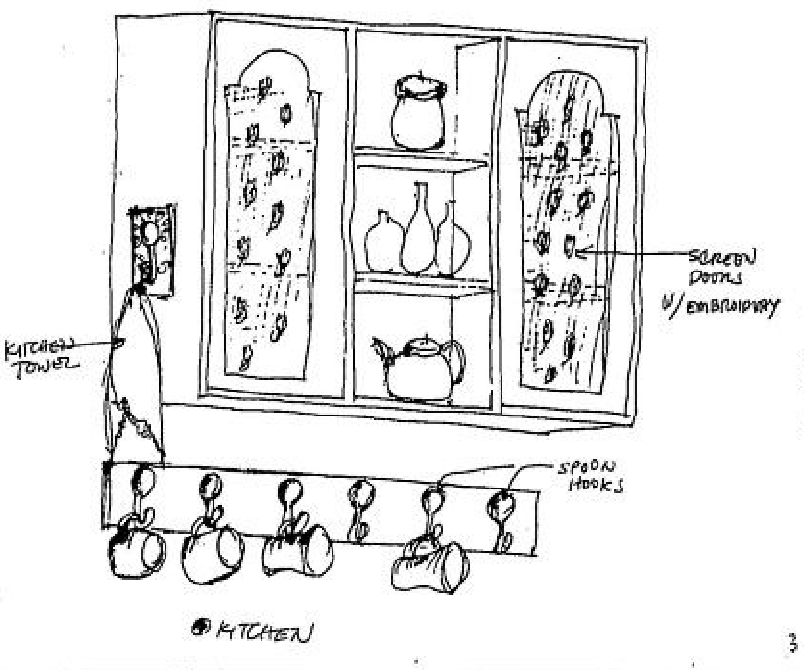


How to spruce up a space on a shoe-string budget





(From page E2)

size from the glass supplier. Have them grind the edges so they can be handled safely. Clean the glass panes very well.

- Stick your pictures on one of the glass panes with double-backed tape to keep them in place.
- Frame A: Collect the stones/shells you picked from the beach during your vacation. Arrange them around the pictures on top of the cover glass. Stick them on the glass with the silicone sealant. You can buy the silicone sealant also from the glass supplier or the hardware. Remember to get a sealant gun to be able to squeeze the sealant out.
- Bind the two pieces of glass with the binder clips. Remove the wire handles.
- Frame B: Collect twigs, seed pods, dry flowers, etc. from the garden. Or take a walk and look for stuff with the kids. Their noses are closer to the ground. Mix the gold powder with sanding sealer. Apply the gold paint on all your finds.
- Arrange the gold-painted stuff on the cover glass and glue with the silicone sealant. I chose gold to frame my parents' picture because they are celebrating their golden anniversary next year. For those who want to use the millennial color, use silver aluminum paint.

Screen doors

You can change the glass panes of your cabinet doors to screens (especially if some have already cracked). Or just start from scratch. The screen allows hot food to cool down, safe from cats and insects.

Materials:

Aluminum insect screen
Spray paint
White glue
Nails (*pakong bakya*)
Embroidery thread
Cabinet door frame (You can get this off the shelf from the big hardware stores. It is important to know the exact size of cabinet door to buy if you already have an existing shelf. Please discuss with the carpenter first.)

Tools:

Craft scissors
Hammer
Embroidery needles

- Cut the aluminum insect screen to the size and shape of the panel. Spray paint the screen with a nice bright color.
- Embroider onto the screen your favorite design. I want to use the flower patterns on the *sayas*.
- They are also woven into a *sinamay* grid. Glue the ends of the thread on to the screen.
- Spray on a fixative to protect the threads. (Optional)
- Nail the screen on the wood frame.

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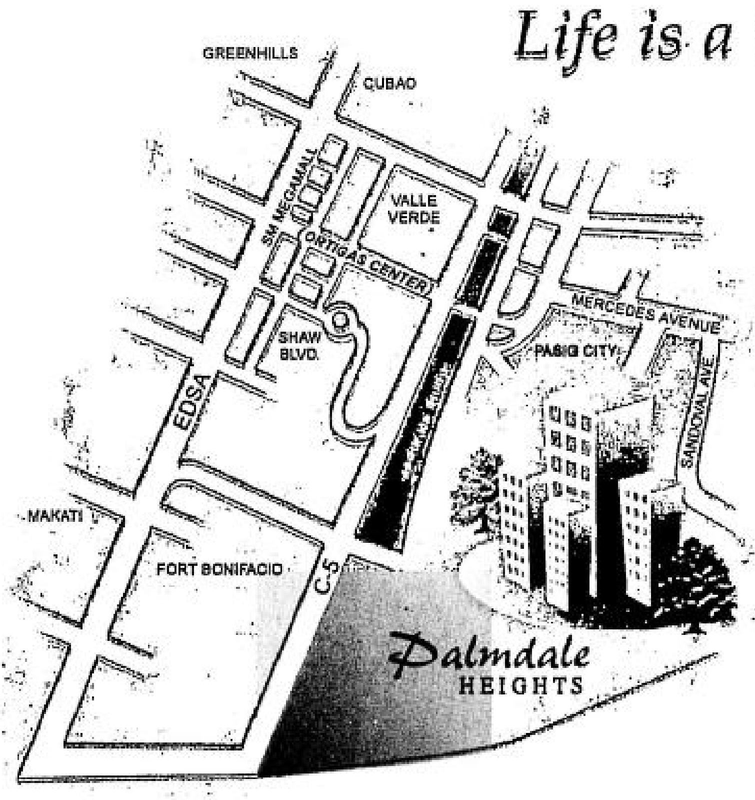

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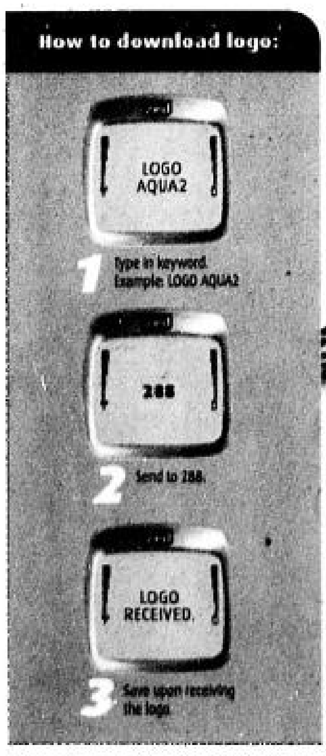

Mosquito-free water garden for indoors

FIVE-MONTH-OLD symbiotic relationship with Siamese fighting fish and dracaena plants

By Tita V. Giron
Photos by Romy Homillada

IN RESPONSE to desperate pleas from water-garden hobbyists, a little shop in Makati has come up with brilliant ideas on how to grow plants in water containers that won't become breeding grounds for the dreaded dengue-mosquito *Aedes aegypti.* Among other ideas, the shop people are adding colorful fish in crystal water vases planted with clumps of ornamental plants.

The massive drive waged by the Department of Health against dengue-causing mosquitoes is a big damper on the enthusiasm of most gardeners, particularly those who grow plants in water. But everybody has to do his share in controlling the population of mosquitoes. Since January to date, DOH has already recorded 10,043 cases of H-fever caused by the virus that is carried by the daytime-biting *Aedes*.

As part of the nationwide drive, the public is advised to empty anything that holds clean water including garden ponds, flower vases, and water plant containers. Dengue mosquitoes lay their eggs in clean, stagnant water.

Adopt a fighting fish

ENZYME in pitcher of carnivorous plant will digest insects.

"You don't have to throw away your water plants. Just add a fighting fish and it will eat every single larva deposited in the vase by dengue mosquitoes," advised Cherry Agawin, manager of Bloemen shop. For her office table, she had a crystal vase filled with bare rooted peace lilies. A red fighting fish was swimming around the roots.

True enough, when we dropped a mosquito larva (locally known as *kiti-kiti)* in the water, the fighting fish made a grab for it.

The fighting fish is also known in the aquarium trade as Beta fish or Siamese fighting fish, Cherry informed us. It has a high tolerance for low-oxygen condition and can survive without aerator, unlike other more demanding aquarium fishes.

"I've had this fighting fish living around the roots of the Spathiphyllum plants for five months now. I only feed it with commercial food twice a week because most of the time it eats the roots of the plants," she boasted. For all we know, she added, it eats up all the larvae deposited by mosquitoes.

Other fishes that will tolerate low-oxygen conditions are gouramis and guppies. According to Cherry, the gourami, in particular, will survive in the fishbowl as long as there are live plants in it. She recommended dwarf gourami. All the fishes mentioned are available in pet and aquarium shops but the best place to look for them is the Cartimar pet shop in Pasay.

Other florist vases in the room were filled with ornamental plants, which other gardeners normally grew on potted soil. One particular vase contained clumps of *Dracaena sanderiana* held together by a vertical stick. A blue fighting fish was swimming in the water.

Also hanging from the rafter of the shop is a healthy pitcher plant, which earned its name obviously because of the pitcher-like appendages at the tip of the leaves. It is a carnivorous plant with enzymes that drown and "digest" insects drawn into the pitchers.

Cleans the air

"We chose Spathiphyllum for several reasons. It is one of the few beautiful plants that flower indoors. And according to books, it improves air quality inside the room by reducing the pollution level caused by alcohol, acetone, trichloroethylene, benzene and formaldehyde," Cherry explained.

Water is also her choice for indoor plant arrangement. It reduces dryness in the room, she added. Moreover, because the plants are established in water and not on soil, they don't need to be watered every day. "It actually reduces water consumption," she believed.

Once the plants are rooted, you can count on them to stay for a long time. For good maintenance, half of the water in the vase has to be changed once every two weeks.

Sources of materials

Dracaena (it is also known by other names such as lucky plants and heavenly bamboo) cuttings are available at Bloemen while the Spathiphyllum are sold at Manila Seedling Bank and other garden centers.

Cherry disclosed she is willing to make water-plant arrangement with the flying fish, if the customer asks for it. However, she needs one week to make the water arrangement.

Other planting materials that will grow in water are Syngonium, pothos, *camote* vine, Cordyline or *baston de san jose*, and many more.

Call 575-8156 or 817-1273 or e-mail bloemen@info.com.ph. For inquiries about dengue mosquitoes, call DOH entomologist Nora Joson at 711-6804 or 732-2493

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This Hartford sofa and table set shows style and value for money. Habitat Lifestyle Center has changed the mindset of a lot of people when it comes to decorating their homes—particularly on how to live comfortably and elegantly without spending too much. Chris Lacson, the new head honcho, will maintain the innovative nature of the business established by his late father Alexander Jr. These items are just a few of a vast collection at Habitat Lifestyle Center located at Pine corner Sheridan Street, Mandaluyong City.

FLORAL FAIR IN GENSAN

The latest in garden and cutflower technology, trade conferences, lectures and exhibits are some of the interesting features at the 6th national floriculture congress to be held in General Santos City from Sept. 6-8. Expected to attend are delegates from private and government sectors, as well as representatives from floriculture houses abroad. The congress will also feature a trade fair for retailers and wholesalers. E-mail chambered@gsc.weblinq.com or gemgsc@mozcom.com.

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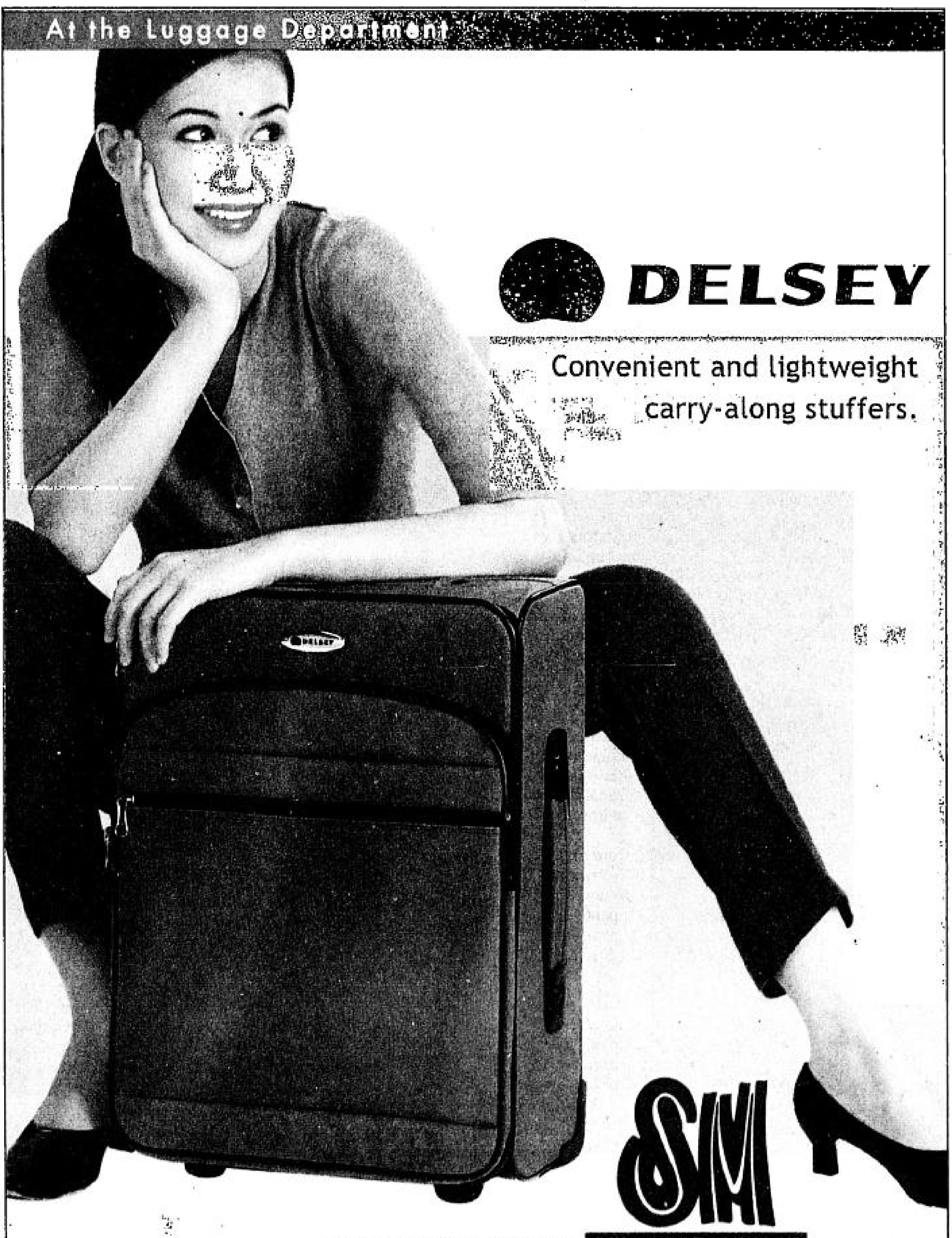

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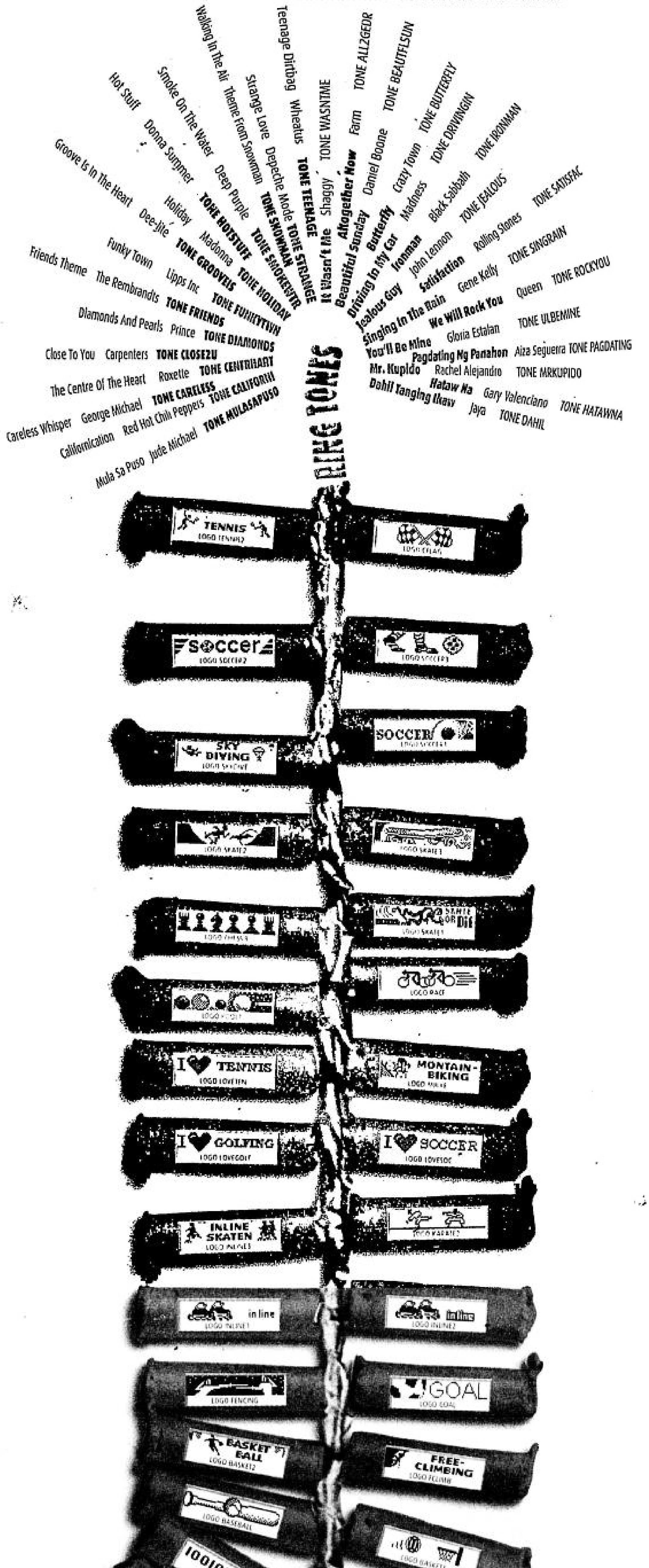
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Donna Summer
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Shaggy
TONE WASNTME
Altogether Now
Farm
TONE ALL2GEDR
Beautiful Sunday
Daniel Boone
TONE BEAUTFLSUN
Butterfly
Crazy Town
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Driving In My Car
Madness
TONE DRIVINGIN
Ironman
Black Sabbath
TONE IRONMAN
Jealous Guy
John Lennon
TONE JEALOUS
Satisfaction
Rolling Stones
TONE SATISFAC
Singing In The Rain
Gene Kelly
TONE SINGRAIN
We Will Rock You
Queen
TONE ROCKYOU
You'll Be Mine
Gloria Estalan
TONE ULBEMINE
Pagdating Ng Panahon
Aiza Seguerra
TONE PAGDATING
Mr. Kupido
Rachel Alejandro
TONE MRKUPIDO
Hataw Na
Gary Valenciano
TONE HATAWNA
Dahil Tanging Ikaw
Jaya
TONE DAHIL
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Dee-lite
TONE GROOVEIS
Holiday
Madonna
TONE HOLIDAY
Funky Town
Lipps Inc
TONE FUNKYTWN
Friends Theme
The Rembrandts
TONE FRIENDS
Diamonds And Pearls
Prince
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Roxette
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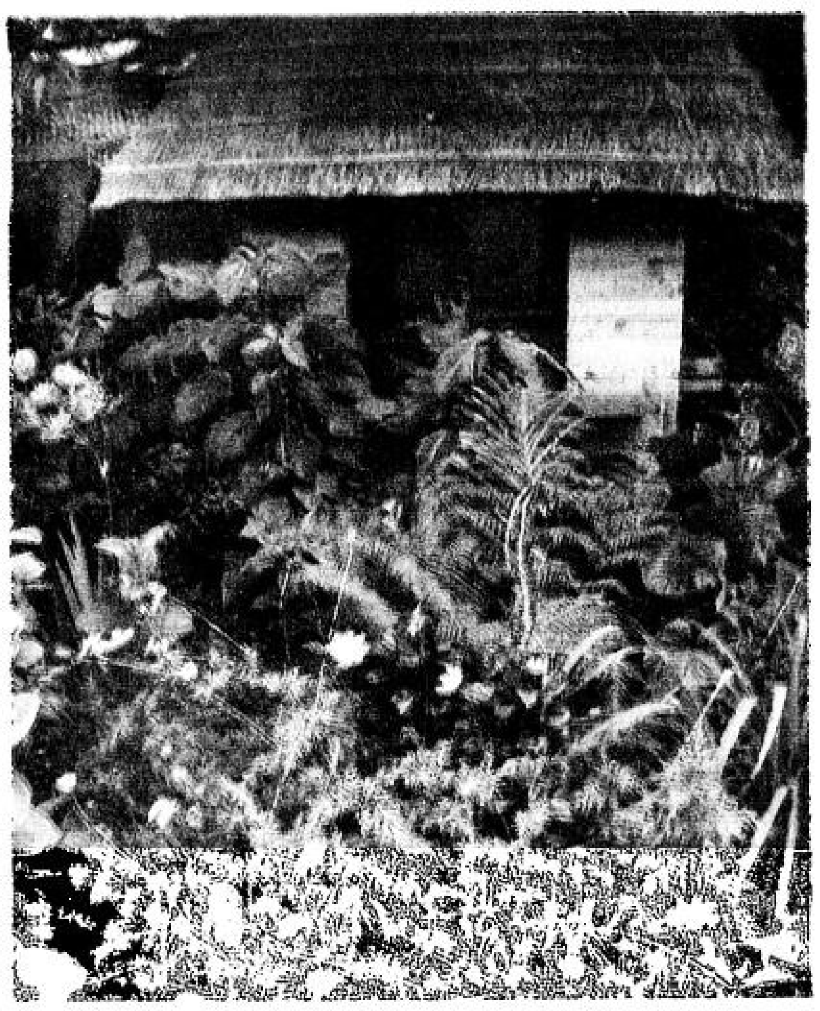


CHAT and Eric's certified style

INSIDE THE TEA house, one can have coffee and good time.

Café lifestyle amid the green splendor

Beans and greenery make Tagaytay a place to come to

A SMART massing of flowering plants and foliage, notably the hydrangeas on the left.

(From page E1)

lish so there must be some kind of Englishness to this garden. I completely forgot that his wife is Filipino, and her nationality should have somehow brushed off on the garden. But Eric and Chat are quick to point out that the garden is not in any particular way English or Filipino. They attribute the garden's present appearance to their sensibilities. They would stop while setting the place up to stand back and look at the garden. The plants they use are the ones best suited to their needs and grow well in the area.

Now imagine having dainty little fruitcakes and tea in this surrounding. I think it is time well spent indeed. Amid the pressures of deadline and work, the place does hold its own. Well, enough for me to enjoy it despite the rush, and the odd people here and there.

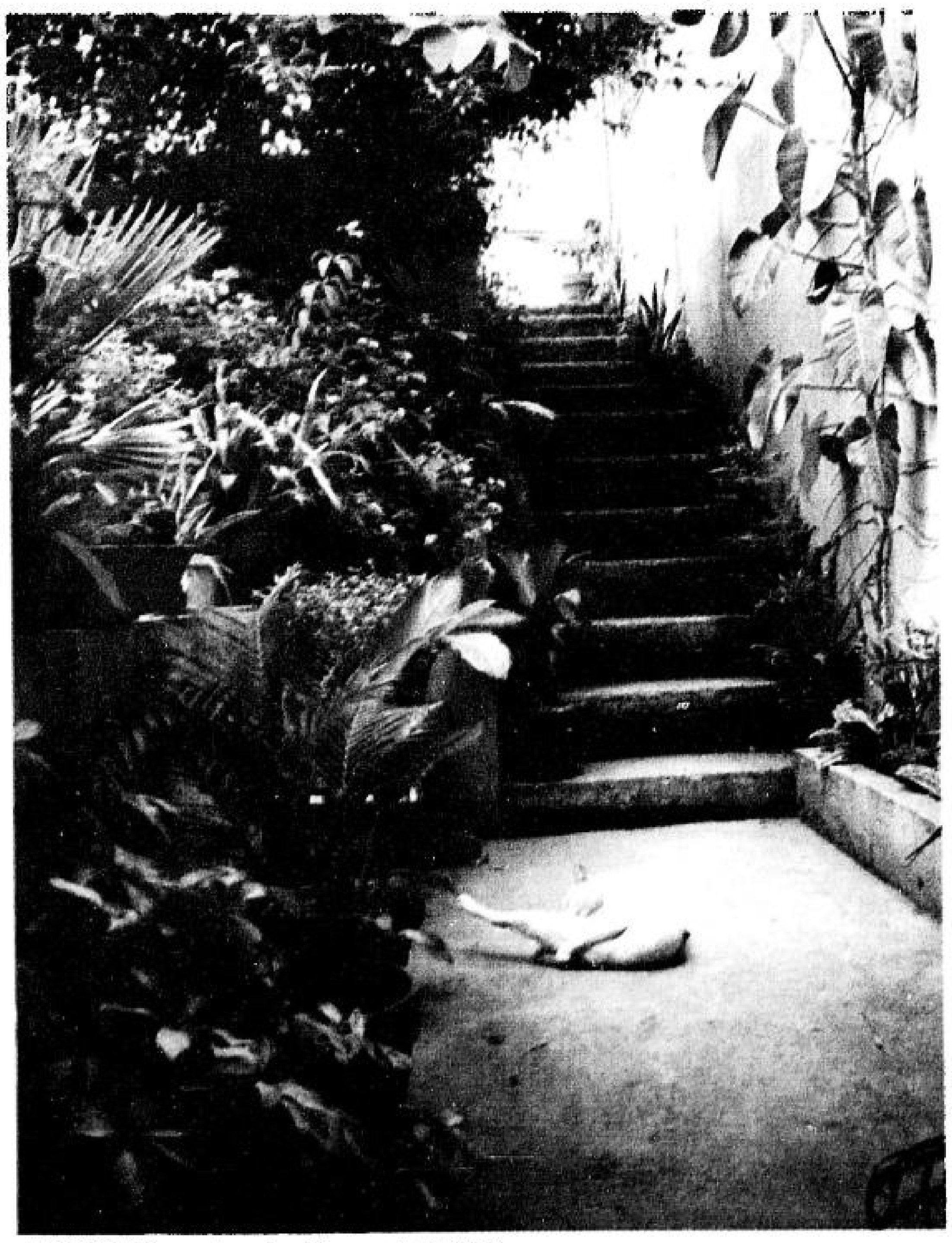
Oh, and did I tell you about the food? On a daily basis they make very good and fresh breads and cakes. Their pies have reached art-gallery openings here in Manila, and, well, the rest I'll leave for you to try. All this from an unimposing café in Tagaytay called Beans Cafe ([046] 413-2724). From Manila it is immediately to your right on the main road after the Mendez (or Tagaytay) public market.

Nowadays is a good time to visit Beans. The enormous mango tree is holding up well. It is fully draped with the woodrose, the climbing ipomea vine which is now in full bloom, covering the whole tree with yellow flowers that will turn completely brown in a few days.

A JUVENILE *pritachardia* palm greets the visitor.

AGAVES and pennisetums line the embankment from the main road.

WHAT looks like a random arrangement is a well-thought composition.



A DISCREET opening should never be judged.

THIS garden has it all—pathways and a wide assortment of plants.

What Bush should do about the environment

Last of two parts

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

WHAT should US President George W. Bush do about bird conservation, chemical contaminants, safeguarding the oceans and other matters that make up some of the gravest environmental problems that the world faces today?

In a forum published in Audubon magazine recently, 15 environmentalists and scientists were asked what the President should do about those concerns. Last week, we featured five of the answers. Here, in the last of the series, are the suggestions of the rest of the experts.

Lester R. Brown, founder and chair of the Worldwatch Institute, on climate change: "We can stabilize climate by restructuring the tax system: reducing income taxes and raising carbon taxes. This will stabilize both oil prices and our climate, by reducing the use of fossil fuels and encouraging the development of alternatives.

"If we take the initiative and raise gasoline taxes while lowering income taxes, the tax increase will end up in our treasury, and individuals will benefit from lower income taxes. But if we let Opec keep increasing the price of oil, and hence of gasoline, the equivalent of the gasoline tax increase will end up in Opec treasuries. We will pay the same higher price for gasoline, but we won't get the income tax reduction."

Birds

Frank Gil, ornithologist and director of science, National Audubon Society, on bird conservation: "Mr. Bush should make birds a primary indicator of the health of our nation's wildlife and by proxy, the environment we pass on to our children. Historically, birds are provided the first or most visible indication of wider problems: unregulated hunting and fishing, pesticide contamination, water pollution, global warming, the spread of new diseases such as the west Nile virus, and the fragmentation and loss of habitat. Our national bird, the bald eagle, declined in numbers when DDT contaminated our land. As our environment becomes cleaner, the eagles are recovering.

"Birds also play a lead role in ecological assessment, as symbols of the value of open space and public lands. And the exceptional public appeal of birds has spawned armies of volunteer citizen scientists who accurately monitor the declines and recoveries of our nation's birds."

Peter Huber, author of "Hard Green: Saving the Environment from the Environmentalists" and a fellow at the Manhattan Institute, on removal of federal control over infertile areas: "I believe, as Teddy Roosevelt did, that wilderness and the rugged life of the outdoors build and define the character of the American citizen."So President Bush should declare that, early in his administration. Bush should affirm that although private land trusts are the most important element of the conservation movement, at some point the vastness of the White Mountains and the Everglades, of river archipelagoes and coral reefs—at some point the sheer scale of the most ambitious conservation objectives require a reach to match. That means the reach of local, state and federal governments.

"This President isn't going to expand federal acreage discriminately, nor should he. The deal that makes both political and ecological sense is this: a loosening of federal control over less fecund areas in the western states and Alaska, in exchange for ambitious new federal initiatives in places like the Everglades. We're going to get energy one way or another; it's better to get it from deep under the desert or the frozen tundra than from temperate marshes and coasts. And by accepting recreational uses of the land, we build political support for conservation."

Womb

Theo Colborn, coauthor of "Our Stolen Future: Are We Threatening Our Fertility, Intelligence and Survival? A Scientific Detective Story" and director of the World Wildlife Fund's Wildlife and Contaminants Program: on less man-made chemicals: "Please, Mr. President, as you prepare our country for peace in the new millennium, remember that peace begins in the womb. Only recently has it been determined that manmade chemicals, widely dispersed in our environment, invade the inner space of the womb. They cross the placental barrier at extremely low concentrations and wage war on the developing child's intelligence and behavior, ability to resist disease and reproductive success. No longer do infinitesimally small concentrations of natural chemicals—hormones—have complete control over the construction of the embryo, from the moment the sperm enters the egg until an individual is born.

"Man-made chemicals undermine the well-being of the child and his or her family, as well as that of the community, the nation and the world. These substances are depriving society of its thinkers, team players, statesmen and world leaders.

"As leader of the most technologically advanced country in the world, you can encourage research to prevent any more unintentional damage to the unborn and restore a child's birthright to develop to his or her fullest potential.

Oren R. Lyons (Joagquisho), faithkeeper of the Onondaga Nation, Haudenosaunee (The Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy), on responsible leadership: "Responsible leadership requires vision with a world perspective and the will to look into the future. Responsible leadership requires compassion and respect for all life, for everything that grows, walks, swims and flies.

"A responsible leader must listen to the people... must have compassion and respect for the common peoples... for the elders... and for the children. And there must be genuine love and respect for the coming generations, unto the seventh generation.

"A responsible leader will not profit at the expense of future generations... will heed the counsel of the women... must understand the law of the seed—the powerful laws of regeneration—and understand that natural law is spiritual, the ultimate authority, and will prevail over all challenges.

"Finally, we must all understand that as long as we make war against Mother Earth, there can be no peace."

Over 30 and treated like a child

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I'm in my mid-30s and hold a high-paying job. My husband died more than a decade ago, when I was 21 and heavy with our first child. It was a very difficult period of my life and I survived it through my faith in God and the support of my family.

Five years ago, my elder sister died, leaving two kids and a young husband who, after a year, proposed marriage to me. Both our families approved, and I obliged because I didn't want my nephews to have a stepmother who might not love them as I do.

My problem is that I feel I'm still trying to find my place in the sun. I am the youngest in our family and after I was widowed, I lived on the dictates of my parents —my mom especially—and siblings. And since I remarried, I've been living on the dictates of my husband.

Many times when I am alone, I look at my situation and conclude that I have been a good person. But all I've done really is take care of my children and stepchildren. I don't feel any love and companionship. I sometimes miss my late husband, but I don't feel I still love him because I've realized how hard it is to love someone at a young age and then lose him.

I'm depressed and in great pain, and I find it difficult to bear all this in silence. Tita, please help me find the love and freedom I deserve.

FAY

You are in that situation now because, I guess, your family has gotten used to looking after you. That's how families often relate to their youngest member.

And if you married earlier than most of your siblings, they probably felt that you had rushed into a world you're not quite ready for and, so, the more they felt the need to look after you. And, of course, they couldn't cease living that role when you were widowed and became a single parent quite early.

You must admit, though, that in all those times, you benefited greatly from their love and generosity. Other people who started as you did got much less help. When they married early, their families said, "You chose that path, now you walk it. And don't come back bellyaching about the rocks and the thorns in your way."

What you want to tell them now, however, is that although you're still their *bunso*, you're way past 30, have been married twice, have a husband and kids of your own, and you're now the farthest thing from a child. You wish to walk the rest of the way by yourself.

You mean well and I'm sure your family will appreciate that. You must understand, however, that for them, taking care of you, looking out for you, has probably become a habit. Unlike smoking, which we can quit cold turkey, loving is a habit not that easy to break.

So make the changes gradually but resolutely. In everything you do, show more independence. Assume more responsibilities. Exhibit greater caution in action and mature deliberation in your choices. To what degree will you do all those? To a degree that closely copies a situation where you, your husband and your children are living happily in a home of your own—in another continent, without a maid, where relatives are people you keep in touch with but not rely on.

As regards your husband, he probably "dictates" to you because, when he was still your brother in-law, he got used to seeing your family relate to you that way. And since the way they cared for you has kept you out of trouble this long, your husband now probably thinks that's the bet way to relate to you. Well, you can change that, too, in the same way you're going to change the way your parents and siblings have been treating you.

As to your other problem, your feeling of being unloved, maybe that's mostly a matter of perspective. It could be that because your family "dominates" you, you feel unloved. But I'd bet, that they don't see what they are doing as "domination" but as love. And you can't deny that by loving you that way, they have helped you in the most difficult times of your life. Call it "loving by meddling," if you will. It may have a lot of meddling in it, but it is meddling that is prompted by their love for you.

It's quite likely, that as you gain independence, your family will also begin to show their love for you in the manner that you prefer. In the meantime, I think you can'stop looking for your place under the sun. You do have a place, a nice one—in their hearts.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

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CONFETTI shower caps inauguration of Casino Filipino Mimosa.

Mimosa blooms again

By Donnie C. Ramirez

MIMOSA Leisure Estate, that well-manicured playground in the former Clark Air Base in Pampanga, bounces back to life after a lengthy and uncertain hiatus.

With a new man at the helm of Clark Development Corp., things are certainly looking up at Clark. Dr. Emmanuel "Manny" Angeles, one of Ten Outstanding Young Men in 1971 and respected Pampango educator and philanthropist, has been appointed president and CEO by President Macapagal Arroyo. Denying any political agenda, Dr. Angeles says his only mission is to make Clark a viable proposition.

Toward this objective, Clark recently reopened the Regency Casino, now called Casino Filipino Mimosa. A joint project of CDC and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), the casino hopes to inject new life into the once-moribund property. It aims to make P135 million in gross revenue by the end of this year.

Dr. Angeles also wants to transform the 2,500-hectare Clark Special Economic Zone into an aerotropolis, an airport-driven, globally competitive urban center, by fully utilizing the area's world-class aviation complex which has two 3.2- km-long runways and a vast apron and ramp.

The reopening of the casino was a major event attended by top Pampanga officials led by Gov. Lito Lapid, Mayors Carmelo Lazatin of Angeles City and Horacio Morales of Mabalacat, and Rep. Blueboy Nepomuceno. Pagcor was represented by chief of staff Rafael "Butch" Francisco and directors Domingo Calajate, Manuel Roxas and Danny Gozo and Casino Filipino branch managers Danny Dia and Rogelio Bangsil Jr.

Dr. Angeles led the CDC team, which included EVP/COO Chichos Luciano and board members Mina Paras and Benny Ricafort. Also at the ceremonies were Mondragon International chair Jose Antonio Gonzalez; advertising hotshot Gryck Ortaleza, who now handles Pagcor's media relations; noted Pampango artist and culinary authority Claude Tayag; Manila socialite Lorna Quisumbing; women's rights advocate Nona Ricafort and Holiday Inn-Clark general manager Andrew Langston.

Rico J. Puno and Geneva Cruz, along with stand-up comic Leonard Obal, the sexy Chicababes and the R&B band Swerve, entertained the guests.

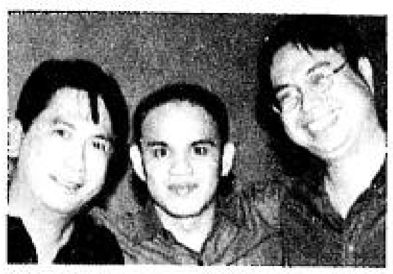
Located at the heart of the sprawling Mimosa Leisure Estate, the 40,000-sq-ft casino is divided into eight parts, each with a distinctive décor theme that captures the glitter of Las Vegas and the glamour of Hollywood.

Tinseltown A-listers

GELO Serrano, owner of an aggressive advertising outfit called Infinite Ideas, must be a very popular guy with show biz celebrities. At his recent birthday celebration at the Moomba Bar in Quezon City, several of tinseltown's A-listers came to greet him.

Newlyweds Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzales, just back from their Las Vegas honeymoon, showed no sign of jetlag. Obviously still on cloud nine, the gorgeous duo did not seem to be bothered by the raging feud between Aga's famous aunt Amalia Fuentes and his soft-spoken manager Ethel Ramos. (Quite frankly, I think that's how it should be. Damn the intrigues and simply get a life, lovebirds!)

KAREN Davila and Paolo Bediones



RUDY Tecson, Gelo Serrano and Mon Zamora

Rustom Padilla, buffed and beefy and enjoying a reinvigorated career after clinching a plum role in a Singapore soap opera, turned a bit pale when told that his estranged wife, Carmina Villaroel, was in the party. Mercifully, a dramatic confrontation was aborted when Carmina wisely made a silent exit shortly after Rustom arrived.

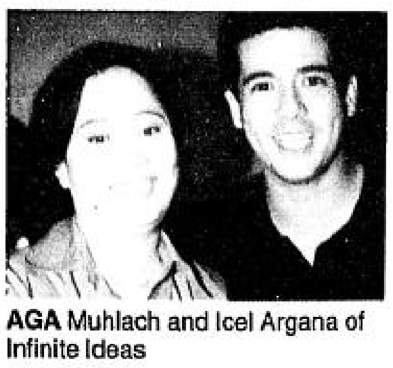
Newscaster Karen Davila was with DJ Sta. Ana, news director at ABS-CBN. A few weeks after the party, the two tied the knot at a private ceremony in Hong Kong. Meanwhile, Karen's former "Extra Extra" cohost Paolo Bediones came stag. But even without his current TV partner, Miriam Quiambao, he was his usual cheery self. On the other hand, sultry singer Geneva Cruz seemed uninspired without KC Montero.

TV weather girl Cutie del Mar (her dad Raul is back in Congress as representative of the first district of Cebu) walked in with pretty Cheska Garcia, sister of teen heartthrob Patrick Garcia who, contrary to show-biz buzz, is not Cutie's boyfriend. He is only a close family friend.

Also at the party were the talented and always proper Albert Martinez and neophyte Quezon City councilor Aiko Melendez who must have found a lot to talk about with Manila councilor Kim Atienza.

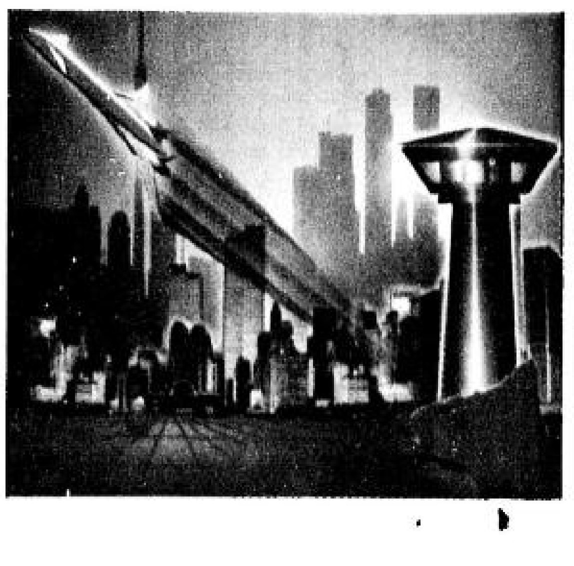
Rounding up the glitter pack were Gelo's friends from the fashion circuit: former model Trisha Cu-Unjieng, designer Pepito Albert, lifestyle writer Mons Tantoco (with hubby Sander), banker Dave Puyat (with wife Berna), Lupe and Roman, children of Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and certified partyman Keren Pascual.

There were only good vibes and good wishes for Gelo that night. And he certainly deserved nothing less. Happy birthday, Mr. Nice Guy!



AGA Muhlach and Icel Argana of Infinite Ideas

CDC president Emmanuel Angeles (extreme right) greets Pagcor director Manuel Roxas, as Rogelio Bangsil Jr. and Rafael Francisco look on.



ARTIST'S perspective of Clark Aerotropolis

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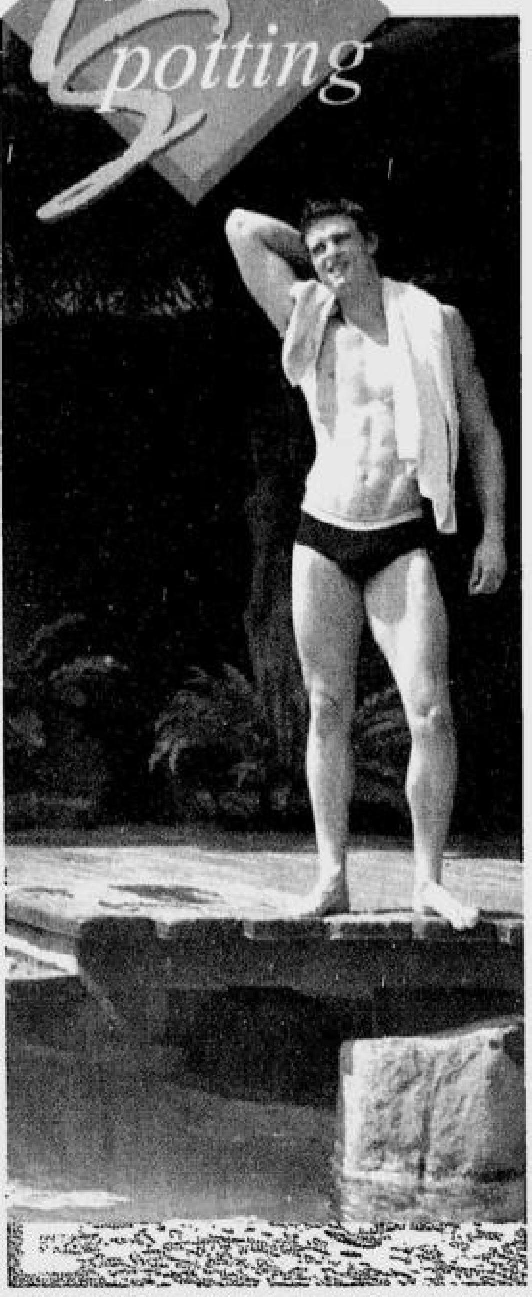
Trend Spotting



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The saga of the male underwear

Story on page F4

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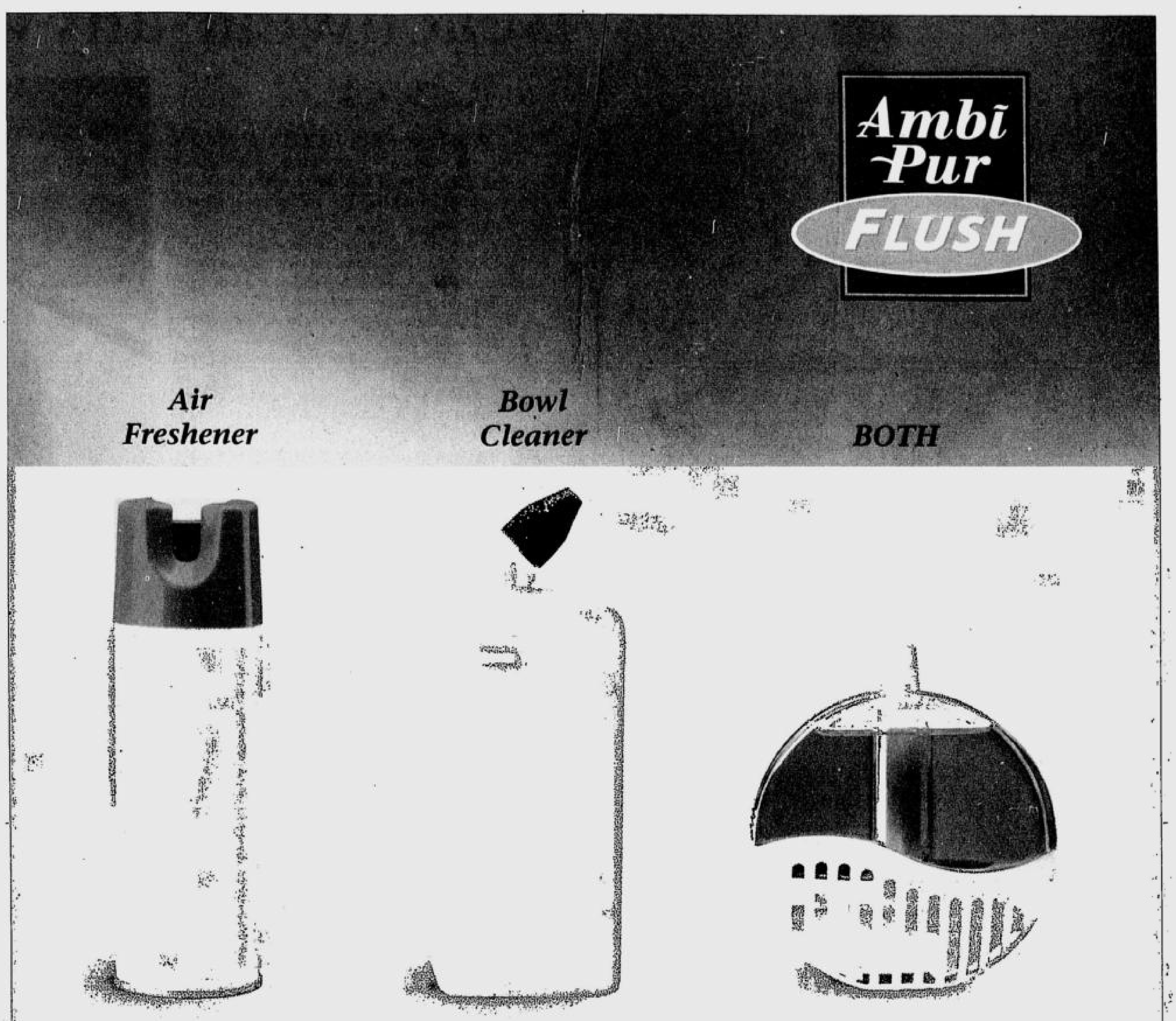

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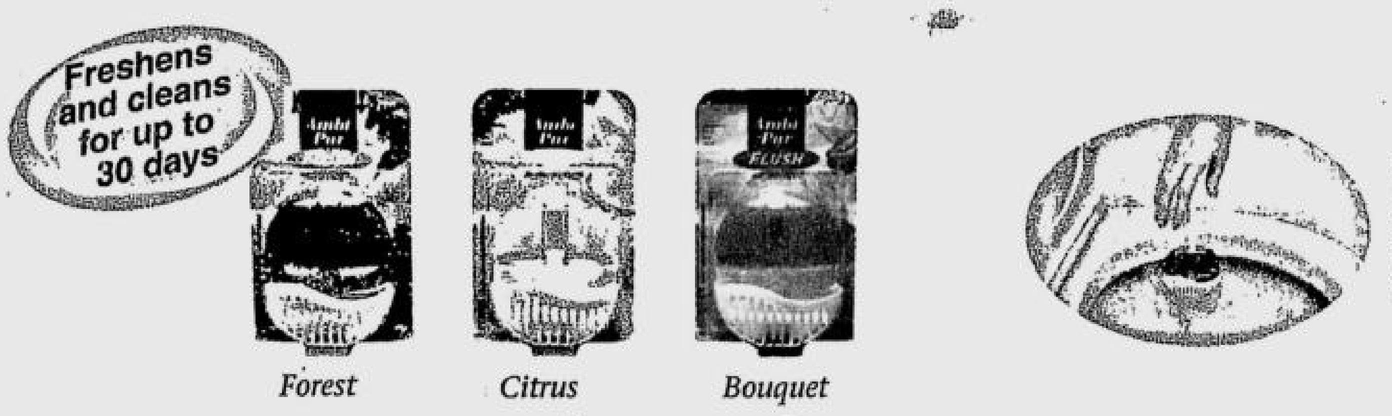

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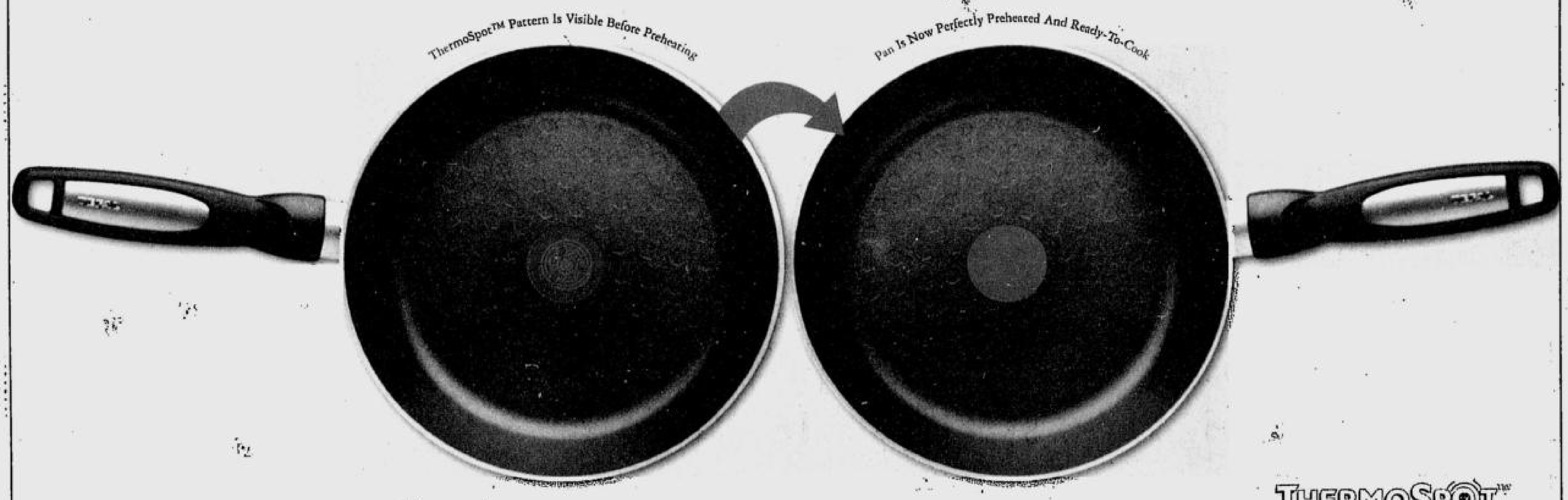

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BY CAMILLE T. CRUZ
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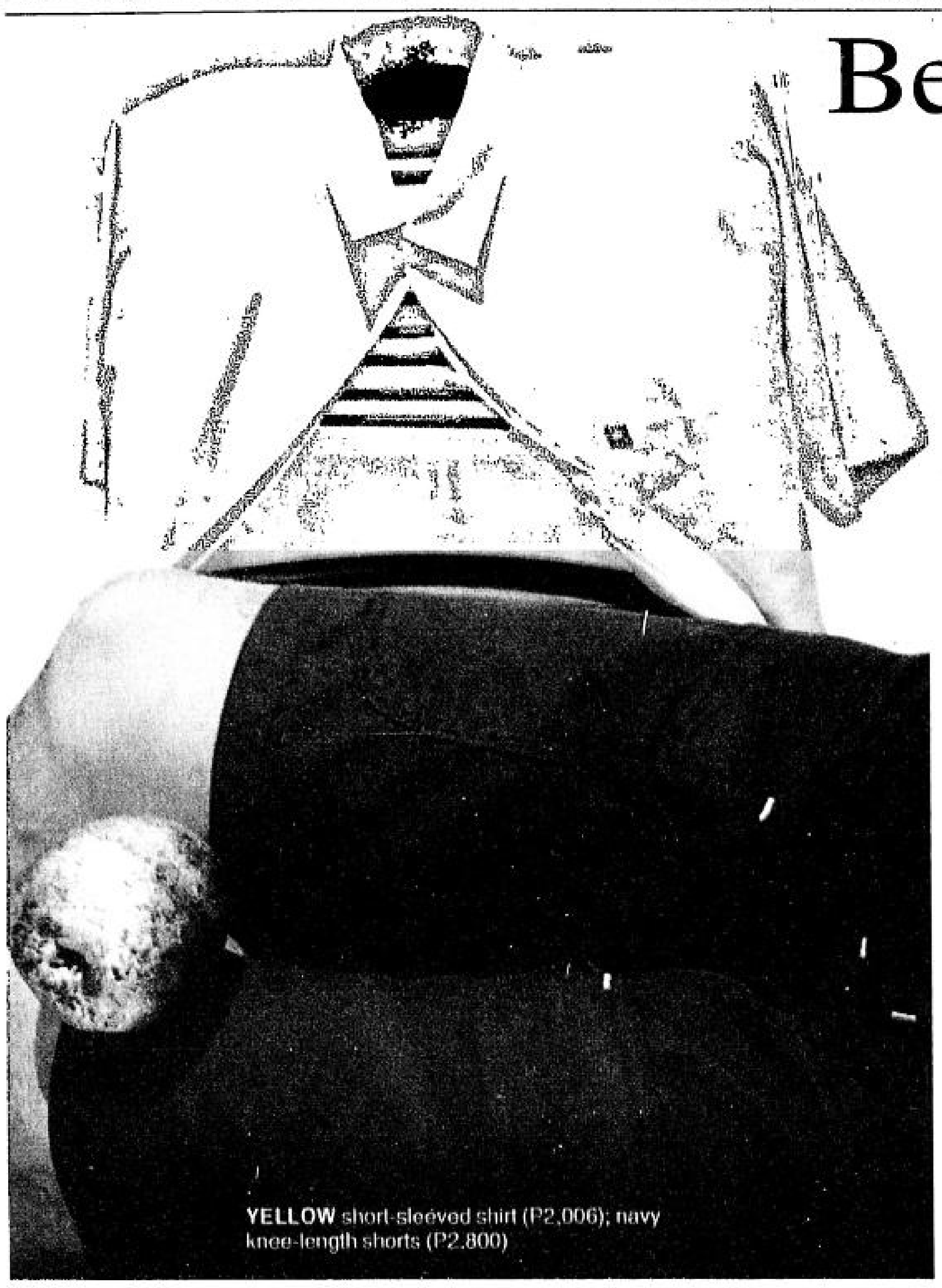


YELLOW short-sleeved shirt (P2,006); navy knee-length shorts (P2,800)

THE POPULARITY of the TV show "Baywatch" may have waned but there will always be people looking for the perfect beach shorts.

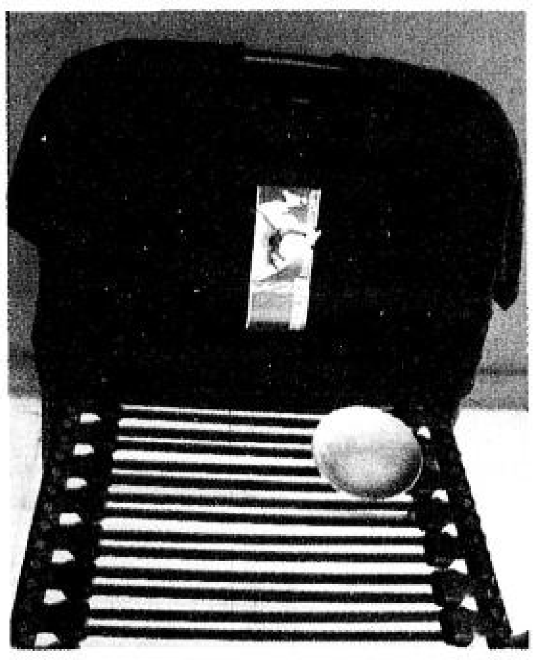
Beachwear has been adjusting over the years. There have been changes in the lengths of shorts, the silhouette of the perfect beach-bomb body, and the type of material used.

Quicksilver is known for its surf gear. Is also has scuba gear as well as accessories such as belts, lipsticks, wallets and other waterproof items.

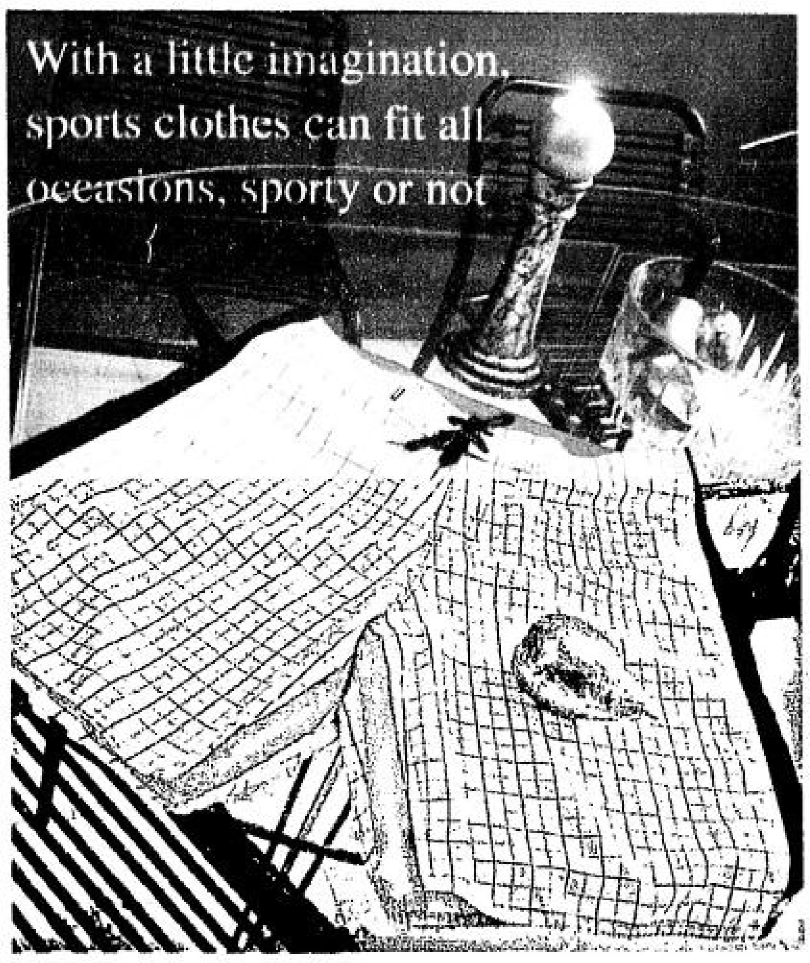
For alternative to T-shirts, men can find tailored shirts and pair them off with knee-length swim shorts that don't exactly look like you bought them from the sports store. For knee-length beach shorts, there are prints other than the "Hawaii 5-0" florals. Quicksilver also has denim shorts and comfort-fit pants that may do for non-wet wear.

In such stores as Quicksilver, sporty pieces have been given more versatility. The clothes fit anyone's style, on the beach or out of it.

E-mail the author at camille_cruz@hotmail.com



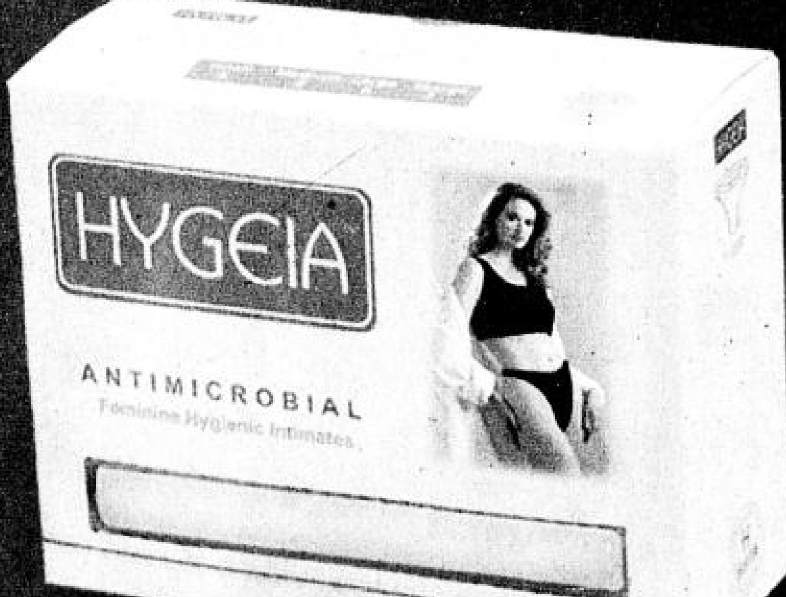
NAVY T-shirt with surfer print on front (P950)



With a little imagination, sports clothes can fit all occasions, sporty or not

CHECKERED orange and blue knee-length shorts (P3,100)

There's No Sense Wearing Any Other Underwear.



The only undergarment you will want to wear.

- ✓ Women swear by HYGEIA's everlasting odor-free protection
- ✓ Recommended by gynecologists to help prevent occurrence of feminine rash, skin irritation and common feminine infections such as urinary tract infection (UTI), vaginitis, etc. caused by bacteria, fungi or yeast
- ✓ HYGEIA is not a disposable undergarment
- ✓ 40% more absorbent than other 100% cotton underwear
- ✓ Value-for-money affordability

Once you've tried HYGEIA, you may not wear ordinary underwear again.

DOES NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF PANTY LINERS.

HYGEIA
Feminine Hygienic Underwear
Helps and Protects.

Available in a variety of fashion styles and colors.

Men's websites, anyone?

BY CHERISH GARCIA-HERNANDEZ

PEOPLE utilize the Internet for various reasons—mostly to check e-mail, chat, download music, games or pictures, or simply read up on topics of interest. I conducted an informal poll on a few male friends to see what sites guys were logging on to. Most of the responses I got were news sites like www.inq7.net, or sports sites like ESPN. Naturally, their fields of interests were reflected in their preferences—stockbrokers went for Bloomberg and similar sites, an architect gave the name of an urban planning site, a friend who worked in the wine business frequented www.winespectator.com, and a cousin who's into music of course favored music-related sites.

Of course it makes sense. Very few people really have the time to wander aimlessly online checking out various sites and doing searches. Add to this the fact that an overwhelming number of sites out there are pure nonsense.

Here are a few lifestyle sites for men that cover a whole gamut of topics, from fashion and health to sports and sex. They may not be for everyone but are worth checking out on a rainy day.

First up are two similar sites that from their names seem to think that men like identifying with animals. There's www.woof.com, which is your basic e-zine with all the requisite columns and articles you would find in an average men's magazine. Woof's thrust, however, seems to be on reviews—site reviews, movie reviews, etc. They can be witty and there's a lot of information to be found here especially if you want to weed out the junk.

Then there's www.apemen.com, which is "for the man who doesn't need a new lifestyle," or so they say. They take pride in being the home of "Renaissance Neanderthals" and they have news and commentaries, articles on sports, health, book and movie reviews and a travel guide. Of course they have the requisite downloadable wallpaper aptly titled "ape man's Jane," which is the picture of some babe. (I have yet to understand why 90 percent of men's sites have to have a pin-up.) Based on the recent movie reviews, it looks like this site is not updated regularly.

MEN'S/ p.F3

Back
Stop
Refresh
Home
Search
Wine Spectator
Online

Men's websites, anyone?

(From page F2)

From sharp grooming to pop-inspired fashion, men's websites are a diverse lot. The common denominator is the pin-up

International audience

A New Zealand-based site, www.emale.co.nz, aims to target an international audience. Recently featured was a review on the new Audi A4. They also have the Pirelli calendar, which they say is their most popular page—no surprise here. They do have a "look better" section where at present they tackle hair and haircuts, and a guide to after-shave scents like citrus, leather, oriental, etc. Overall, though informative enough, this site lacks zing.

Another site worth checking out is www.gentguide.com. This is an interactive site that allows you to submit articles and the articles are actually decent. What this site has though are games. You can choose between Java games (no plug-in needed) or Flash games (Macromedia plug-in needed). They have the basics like Tetris and Mines as well as other more elaborate games. They also have daily comics so I guess it's easy to figure out the type of guy they cater to.

For our more fashion savvy kind of guy, there's www.sharxx.com. Of course all their features are "sharp." From "sharp dating," which features a question-and-answer forum, to "sharp health"—a recent feature is how to control your blood pressure. They also devote some time to "sharp grooming"—a rarity. Very basic advice on how to look good at the beach (if you're too white, or if your back is too hairy, etc.) is what they're tackling at present. They also have a question-and-answer portion for dressing titled "sharp threads." One strange question asks how to train one's facial hair to grow a certain direction. As you can see it's different to tell if this site is trying too hard to be "sharp." However, their articles are informative enough.

Rock 'n' roll

If you're really into rock 'n' roll, pop style, www.fashuionfollower.com is for you. Not for your average Joe, the fuchsia backdrop alone is enough to scare most guys I know. However, this is a pretty cool site that pays homage to the whole rock music/fashion relationship. For instance, they have the "grooviest dressed guys of rock," which features, among others, Beck, Chris Isaac and the band Spacehog. They have a "Trend-spotting" section as well as a "Timely fashion" feature, which is a look-back (right now it's Frampton who is the focus.) If you are into this stuff, this is a great site.

An obscure site I came across was www.signaturestyle.net/guysguide/htm. They have a "Shower, shampoo and shine" section, which offers basic grooming tips from nutrition to skin care. They encourage men to evaluate themselves because they say that a few changes here and there make all the difference.

Of course, some of these sites are slow compared to your big magazine sites like www.esquiremag.com, www.gq.com and www.maximonline.com. But one never knows what might spark one's interest.

On the miscellaneous side, here are couple of suggestions. Most guys into gadgets know that www.zdnet.com offers great reviews and information on MP3 players, laptops and handheld devices. If you have a DSL connection or a really fast modem, check out www.bmwfilms.com. This site, of course, belongs to the car company, but they have this gimmick where high-profile directors shoot short films featuring the BMW. Watch Guy Ritchie's short film featuring his wife, Madonna. It's pretty funny.

In the end, we will still gravitate toward things that interest us. Men especially don't have the patience to read on style and the like the way women do. However, it never hurts to check out what's available out there.

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com

Psst, Pepito!

Pe-pito na lang ba'ng buhok mo? Bago pa mabawasan, tawag na!

Call the Regroe Company
817-33-03

DON'T BE A JOKE FOREVER!

Arabohok. Pepito.

Have you ever been called one of these hurtful taunts? Leave it to the Pinoy to come up with funny jeers. These nicknames, though often said in jest, are anything but funny. Losing one's hair is never funny.

If you're 25 and up, male, exposed to stress, harsh chemicals and unbalanced diet, you are bound to lose hair. Anyone of these can trigger falling hair, which if not immediately arrested, can lead to irreversible baldness. Many so-called remedies have come out in the market claiming wonders and magic to bring back your hair. Unfortunately, most of them just don't work. Some can even cause harmful side effects.

Good thing there are scientifically-tested and highly-effective hair growth formula like **Minoxidil Regroe. Regroe** is a result of years of study in the U.S. and is one of the few medications that has proven efficacy. 80% of users have grown their hair back in 6 months. Some start to grow their hair back in as early as two months. For some, falling hair stops at the first month of use. At two months, new hair starts to grow. At 6 months, all lost hair will have been recovered.

Arabohok? AGA nalagas? Don't be a joke forever. Do something about your hair loss before it's too late - call the **Regroe Hotline** at **817-3303.**

RETURN COUPON
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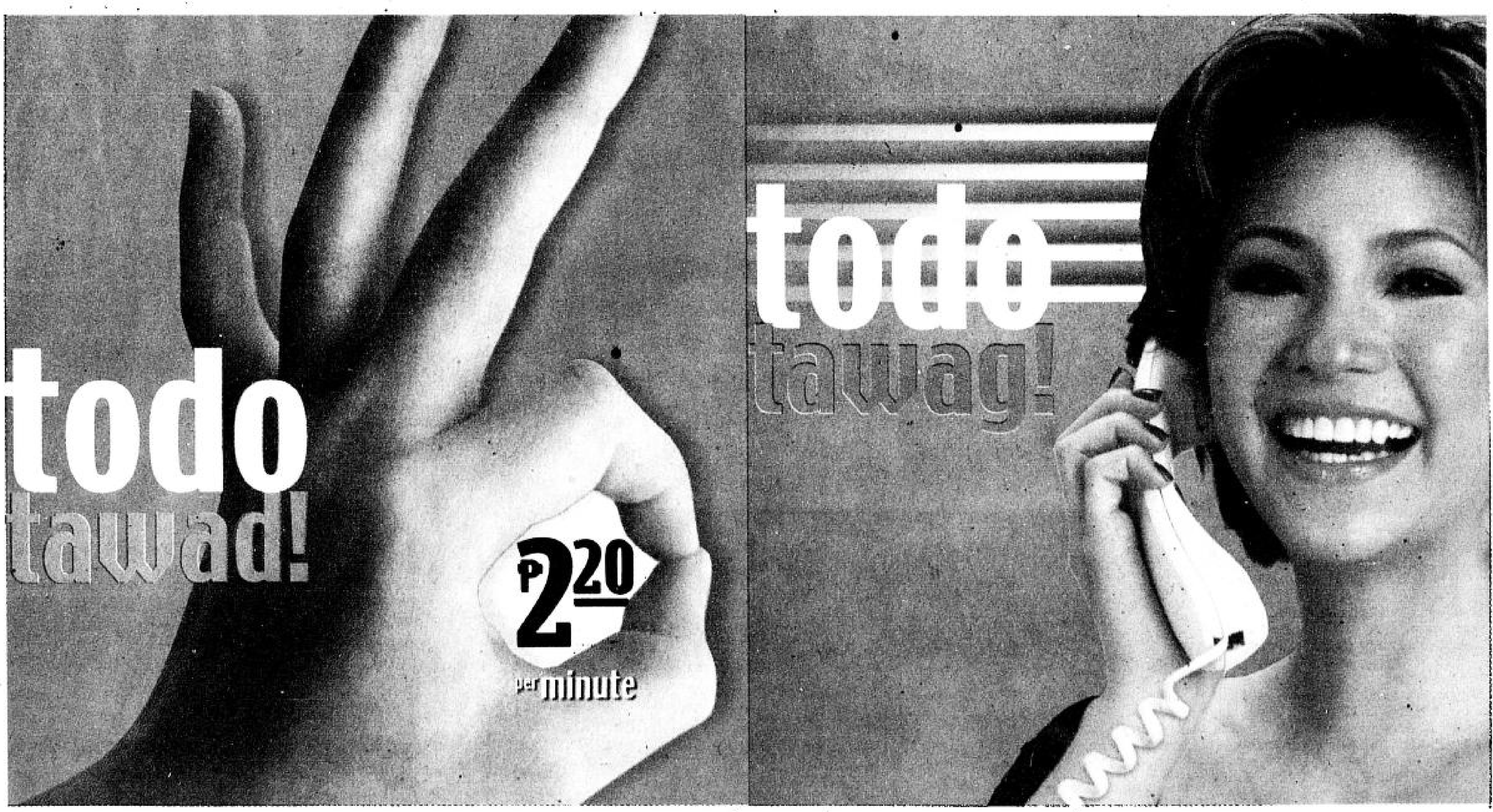
ADDRESS ____________
____
SIGNATURE ____________



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The saga of the male underwear

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
PHOTOS BY WAHOO GUERRERO

SINCE the '80s, the male underwear has been associated with modern ideas of machismo and sexuality. Instead of downplaying the male form as the object of passion, underwear has embodied the male body as a myriad of sexual qualities.

It wasn't like that before. Before World War II, the diversification of men's underwear seemed to have gone unnoticed. Men's undergarments were kept basic and practical, as if to secure the male form as a defense against uncurbed sexuality.

T-shirts, *sandos* and boxers comprised the range of men's undergarments until the Y-front brief was introduced. According to "The Face of Fashion," by Jennifer Clark, this design had the benefit of the clever angling of the fly to redress the discomfiture of peeing in public. The design was radical then because it drew attention to the crotch by the seaming. The ease of the design was intimidating to those who favored boxers. The younger and adventurous market chose the more forward styles, including the bikini briefs.

Clark says that men's underwear started to be categorized as fashion in the '60s as a result of its union with swimwear. The boxers (or drawers) were on the wane. A new generation of consumers favored Y-fronts, jockeys and their variations. Swimwear was also tied to qualities of athleticism, power and sexiness—qualities of the New Masculinity. Since then, men's underwear has been promoted for its amorous nuances—"as a prelude to sexual intimacy, the attraction of concealment, and the libido for looking [and touching]," Clark quotes a social historian as saying. Men's underclothes mirrored neoteric perceptions of the male body, open for the female and male gape. Ramifications of being sissy, sensuality and gay desire have magnified the sexualization of the male form and the implications of men's underclothes.

Androgyny

"In the early 1980s, androgyny influenced the promotion of underwear for men," writes Clark. Designs were consolidated and assorted, patterned and colored fabrics supplanted the basic, white cool cotton. The biggest impact was in advertising campaigns as young, tanned, muscled male models, clad only in their body basics, struck provocative poses.

Imagine what the media did to Calvin Klein's underwear. The sales of men's undergarments skyrocketed when it was repackaged as "sexy fashion." Clark writes, "Men now have a choice of styles in pants: Jocks, tangas, boxer shorts and Y-fronts. Each carefully marketed for its target consumer. Underpants are now ephemeral, sensual and desirable."

Media images provoke disputes because the photographs of men modeling the skimpy briefs are insinuative of plain beefcake. Underwear campaigns feature the garments as modeled, with the aim of showing the product on a body. However, the storyboard or the concept created around the underwear and the model characterize a new chronicle of obsession as advertising draws on the imagery of erotic photography and soft-core porn, observes Clark.

She drives home the point as she quotes W. Haug, author of "Critique as Commodity," as saying, "The purchase of men's underwear is provoked by emphasizing the penis on public show as part of an image. No longer do men's underpants merely encase the genitalia, now they are an index of masculinity and sexual potency."

In keeping with the Western trend, local labels have also incorporated sexuality in their campaigns for men's underwear. However, the versions are much tamer so as not to create controversies in moral codes. To capture the imagination of the consumers, labels have been capitalizing on the celebrity factor rather than overtly sexual images. The spokespersons, mostly actors, exude attributes of Filipino machismo—the mischievous rake and flawed handsomeness.

Against the current

Penshoppe is going against the current by acquiring an Australian model. Keeping true to its corporate values and wholesome images, the campaign for its underwear line focuses on the person rather than his sexuality.

The communications team scoured the globe to find the right image model. Melbourne-based Jonathan Kovac started modeling at the age of 20 when he had just finished his studies in public relations in the university. Had he started modeling at 15, he would have been bashed by his classmates since modeling would not have been the macho thing to do.

With his naughty handsome looks and build, his mother urged him to take up modeling if only to earn extra cash. Kovac went to a modeling agency. It took him more than a dozen castings before he got the job. He was nervous about his first ramp job, modeling for a hair show. Kovac was just as clueless when he modeled for a sports catalogue. "I was shy. I sat back and went along as everything happened," he recalled.

Since then, Kovac has modeled for Calvin Klein, Levi's, men's stores and fashion shows. His biggest account was doing McDonald's TV ad. He played the buffed guy who was frightened by a spook. His toughest assignment was flexing his muscles for hours for a Samsung ad, shot in Korea. "It took hours. By the end of the day I felt cramps," he said.

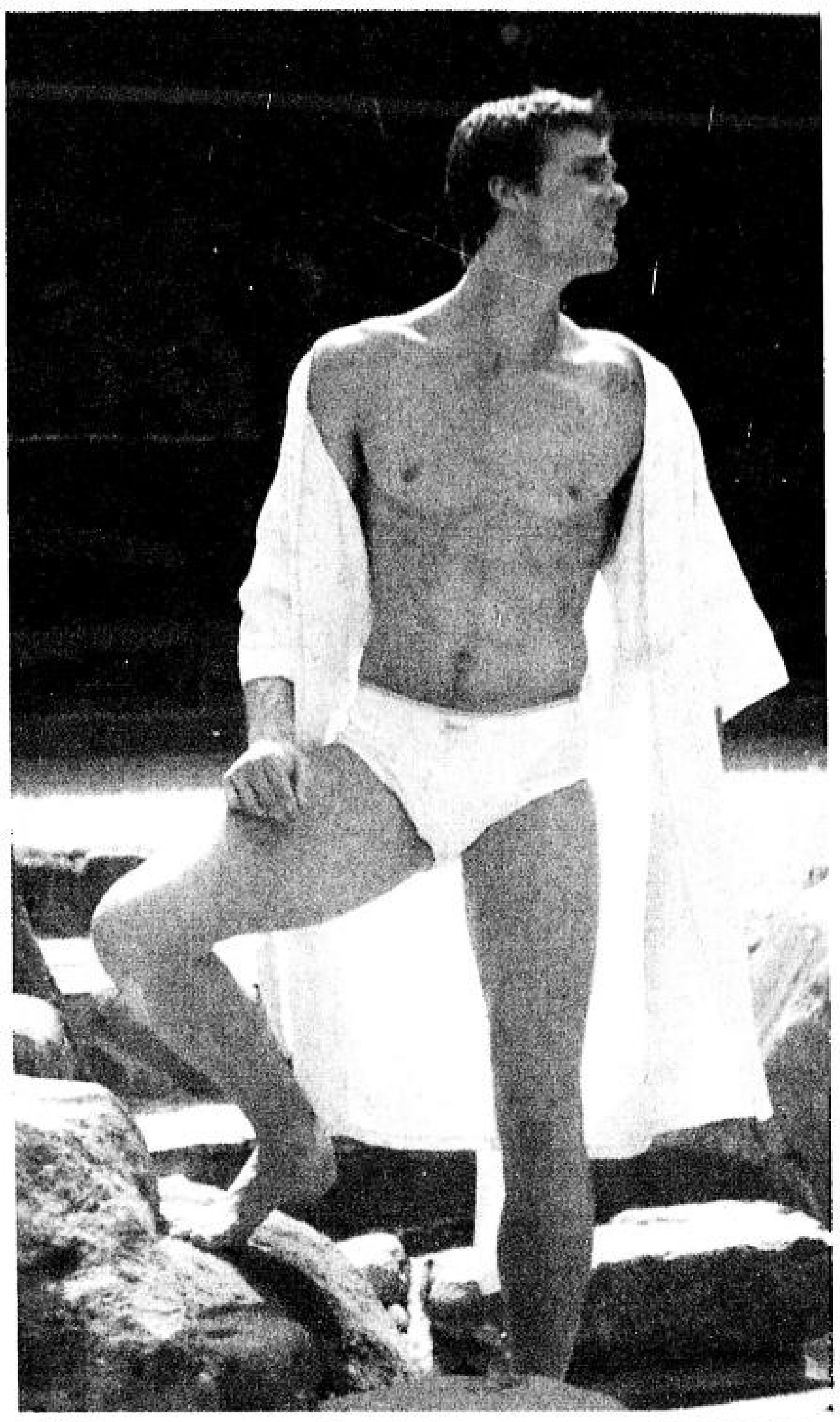
Kovac has no qualms about modeling underwear since Australians have no inhibitions about their bodies. "I grew up swimming. I'm used to appearing in Speedos as much as appearing in underwear," he says.

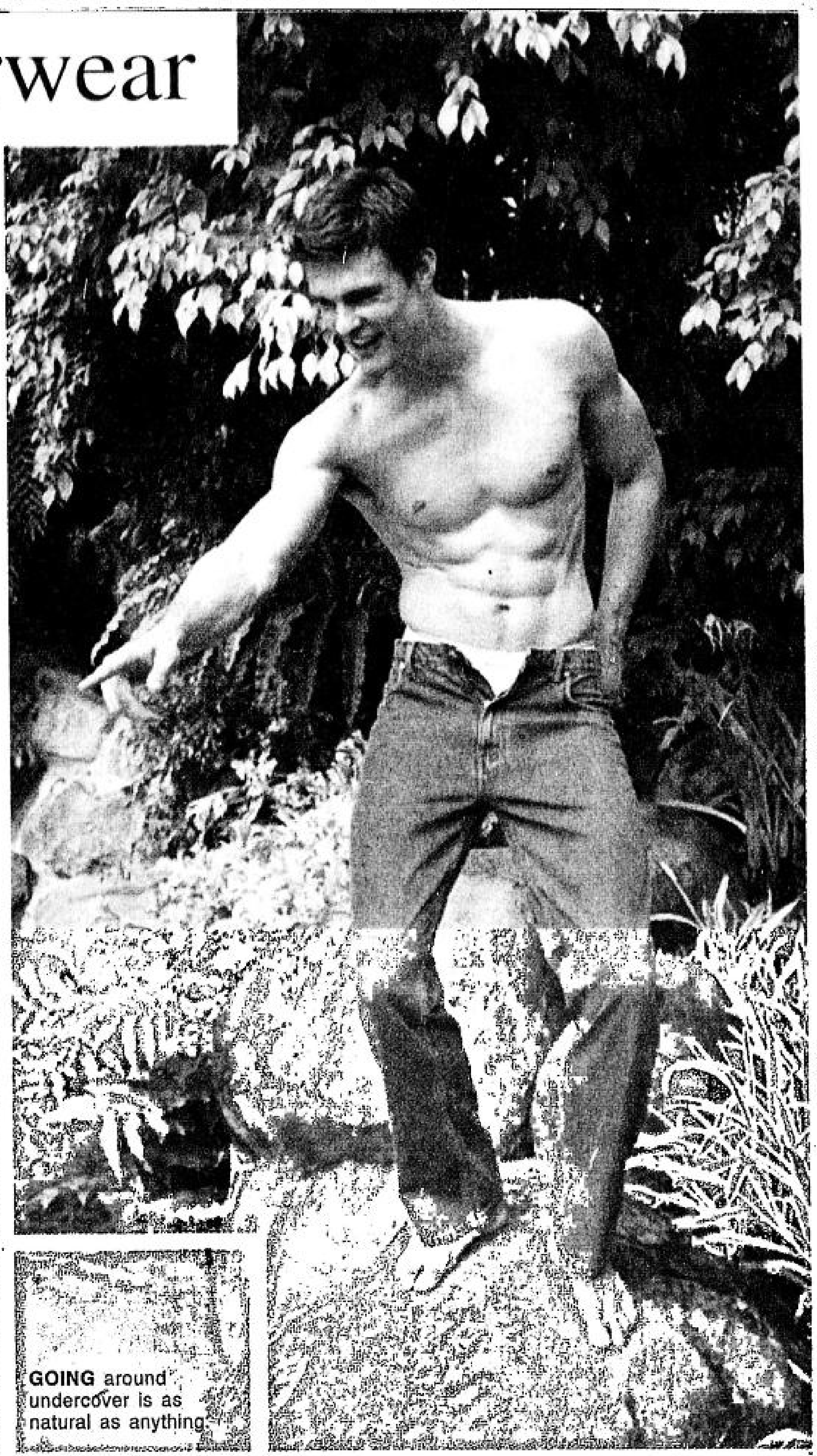
In an Australian department store, Kovac played a mannequin clad in drawers, and even let customers touch him.

He keeps fit by going to the gym five times a week and playing basketball. He eschews butter and prefers brown bread to white.

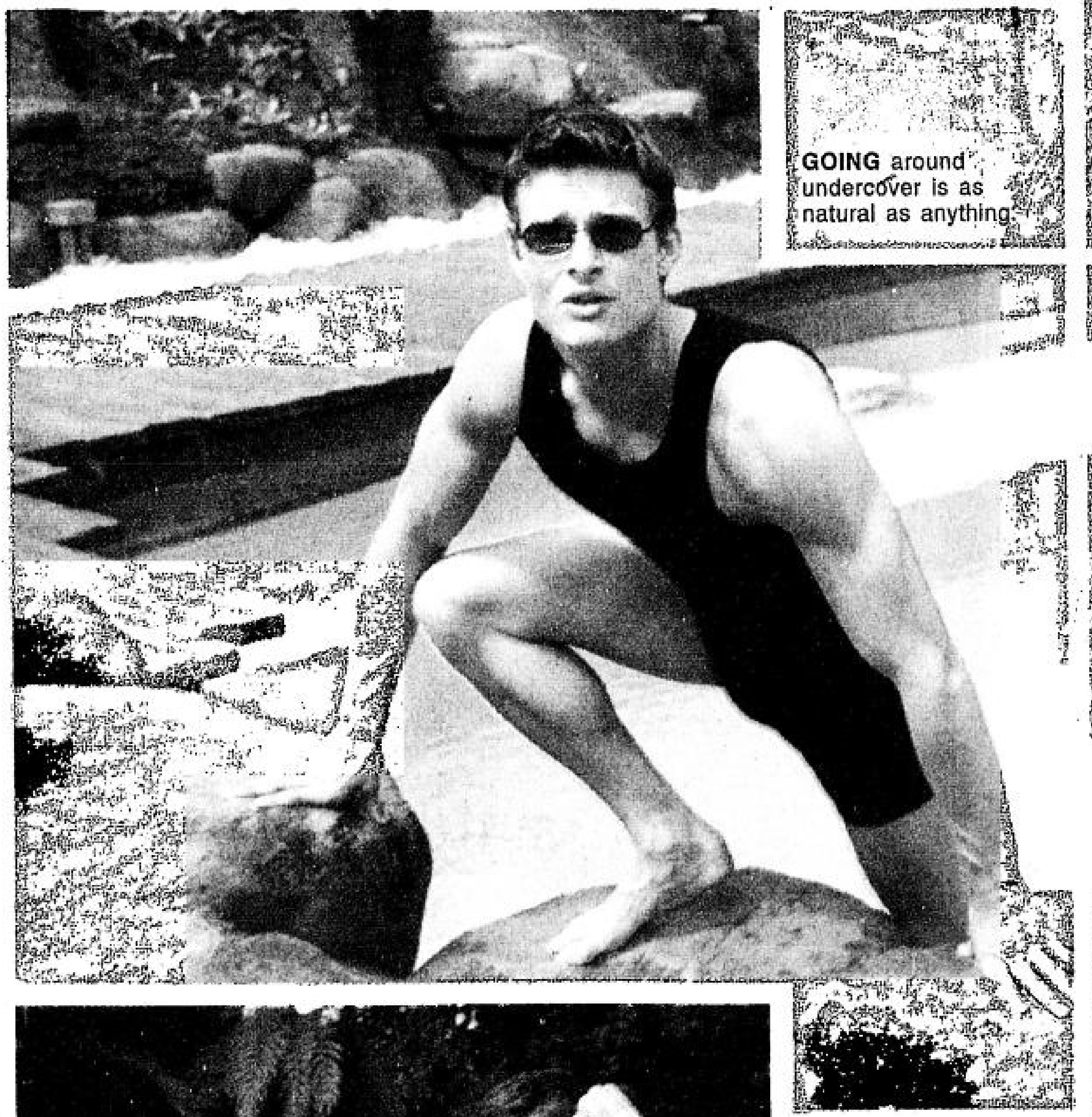
As for grooming? "Not even soap and water," said Kovac. "My girlfriend puts on five things. If you start moisturizing, you have to do it forever. If you never start, you don't have to. I'm going about never doing it."

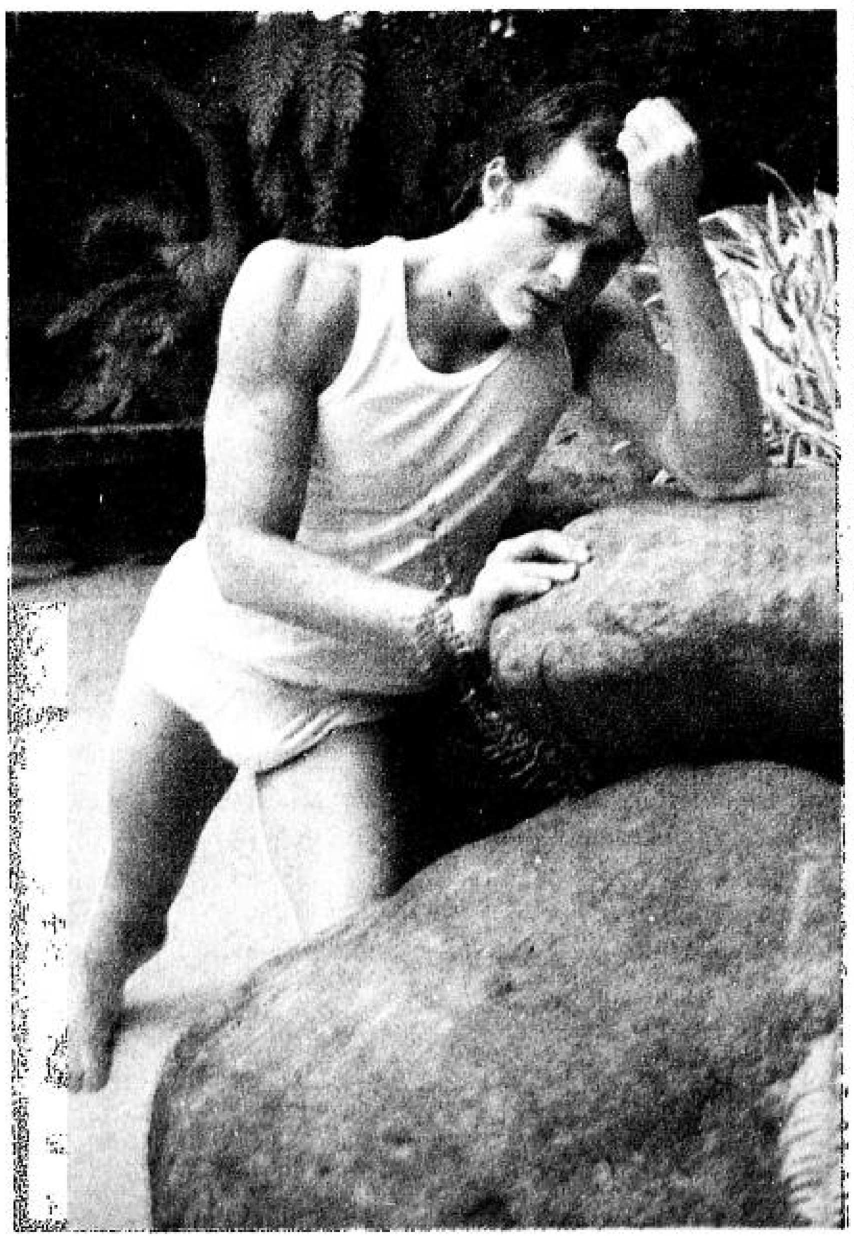
When Kovac quits modeling—which is still a long way away—a desk job will certainly cramp his style. Kovac's PR degree will certainly provide him with social mobility.



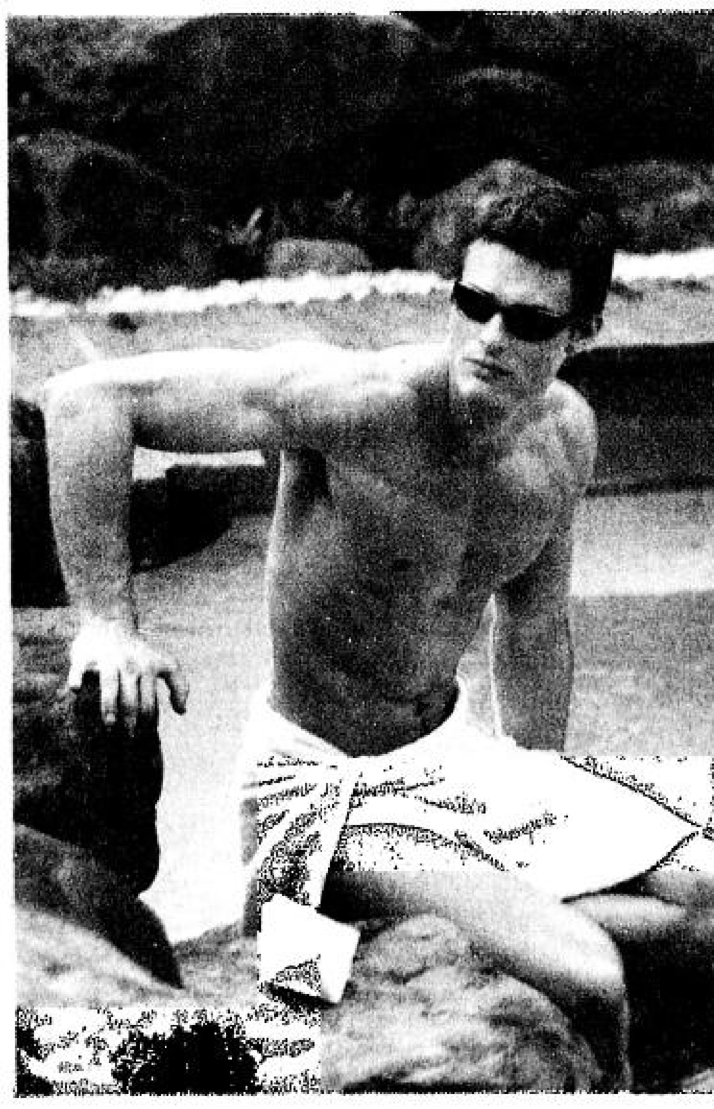


GOING around undercover is as natural as anything





From a mere means of male protection to the untrammeled celebration of male sexuality, the underwear represents the journey of a lowly garment from darkness into the light



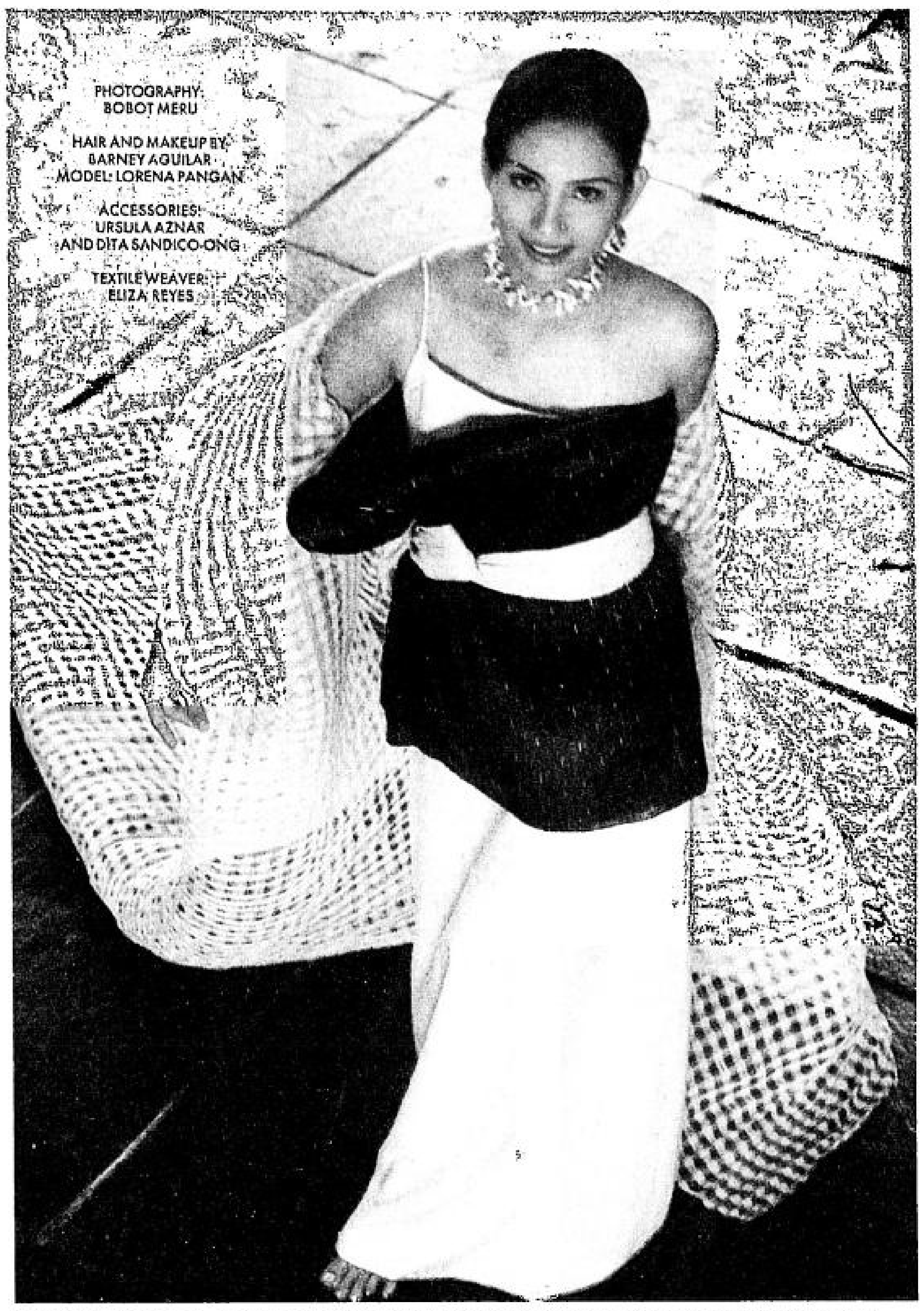
Dita Sandico-Ong to show collection in Malaysia

DESIGNER Dita Sandico-Ong plays a mix of ecology and the conventional tenets of fashion. Her fabrics are made from plant fibers and are interpreted in ready-to-wear under the labels of Cache and Lakshmi. Her clothes can be framed, hung on the wall, draped around the body or on the sofa. They are comfortable, functional and most of all, they look rich and fabulous.

Sandico-Ong will fly to Kuching, Malaysia next moth to present her collection in the World Eco Fiber and Textile Forum, which aims to encourage research into the use of fibers and dyes and market them. The forum is an exchange of the latest information on natural fibers and dyes in all forms of textile weaving, basketry, mat making and others.

UNIQUE monochrome of carmine red and wine over a strappy linen gown

CARMINE rose wrap shrouds the orange corset and black pleated skirt.



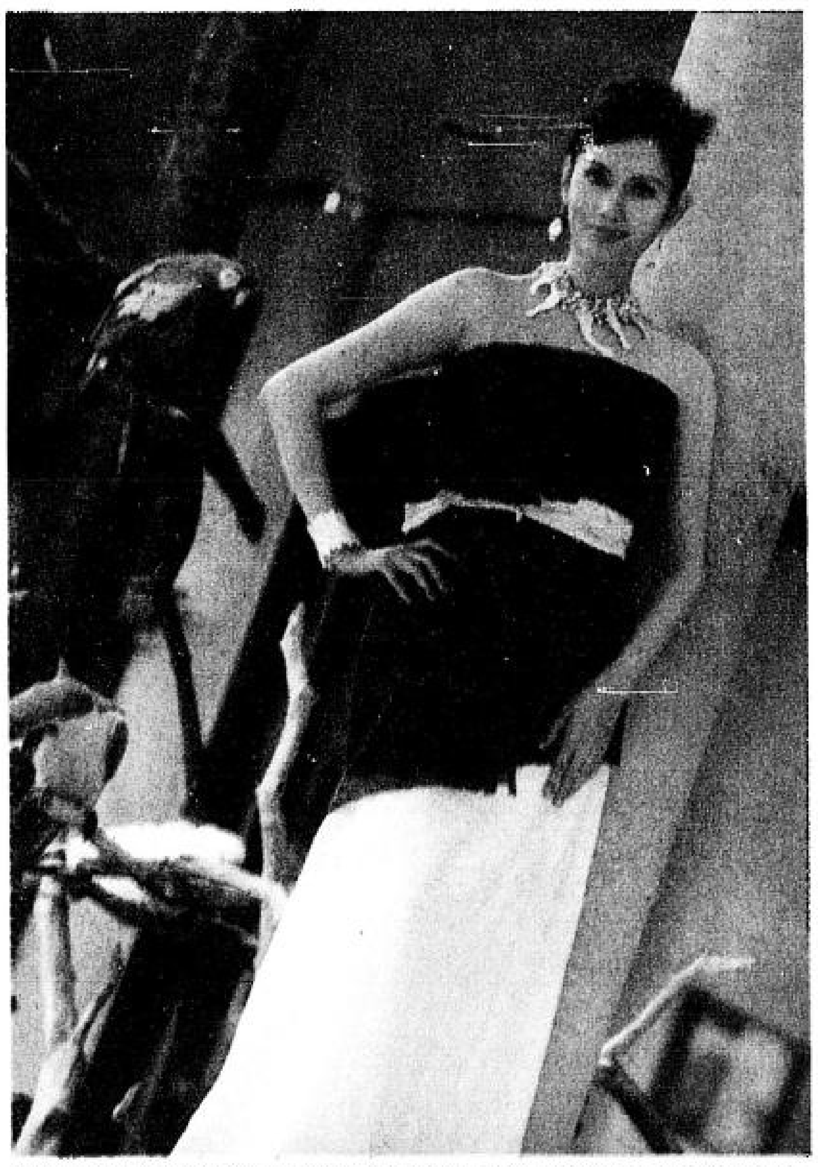
PHOTOGRAPHY: BOBOT MERU

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY: BARNEY AGUILAR
MODEL: LORENA PANGAN

ACCESSORIES: URSULA AZNAR AND DITA SANDICO-ONG

TEXTILE WEAVER: ELIZA REYES

LORENA wears an asymmetrical spaghetti-strapped linen gown under an indigo wrap with a raindrop pattern. She is draped in a floor-length shawl with an open weave.



THE PURE white linen gown enhances the texture of the banana-woven wrap.

Mules never go out of season

CLASSIC Italian suede mule

VIA Venetto offers a wide and extremely attractive variety of mules, the classic footwear that is formal but not stiff, pretty but not frighteningly powerful.

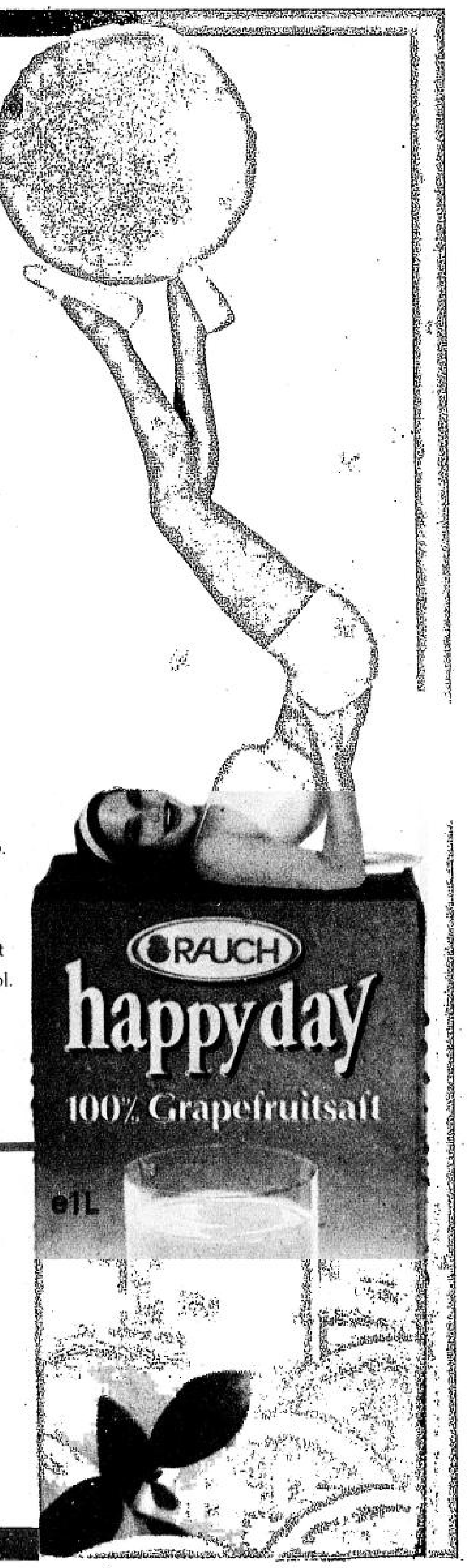
As rendered by Via Venetto, mules range from patchwork-type pieces that combine cool pastels of Italian simulated ostrich calf leather to feminine ones of Italian simulated boa calf leather. Trendier styles are done in Italian simulated python calf leather.

The use of simulated material is in line with the company's support for environmental conservation projects, including the ban on the slaughter of wildlife for exotic leather.

Other choices offered by Via Venetto are the very feminine Italian kidskin pieces in beige monochrome, or classic mules of Italian suede in very attractive combinations of summer brights. A daintier option is mules in Italian kidskin accented with a string bow.

Via Venetto stores are located at the Greenbelt Mall, Glorietta 1, Alabang Town Center, SM City Annex, SM North Edsa and SM Megamall A.

FEMININE mules of Italian simulated python calf leather



happy day
happy day
100% Apfelsaft
happy day
100% Tomatensaft
happy day

The Fitness Fruit

No other fruit has had it so good for you. Grapefruit is the low-cal *lipotropic.* That means it has a fat-burning enzyme that works with *inositol,* a B-complex vitamin, to help keep fat cells from building up.

Apart from this, the grapefruit is a nutritionist's dream. It's packed with Vitamin C for increased resistance, *limonoids* that may inhibit cancer cells, *flavonoids* that have anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant properties, plus *glucaric acid* and *pectin* to help lower bad cholesterol.

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Have a Healthy Happy Day.

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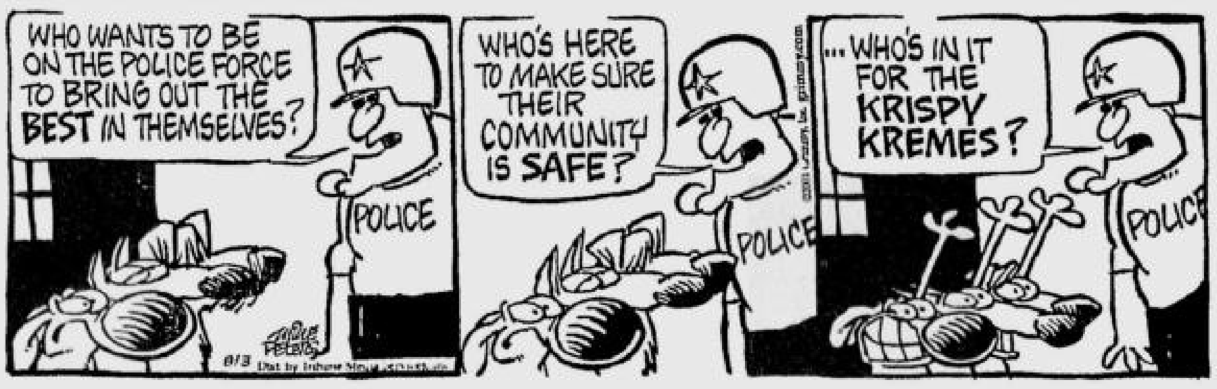
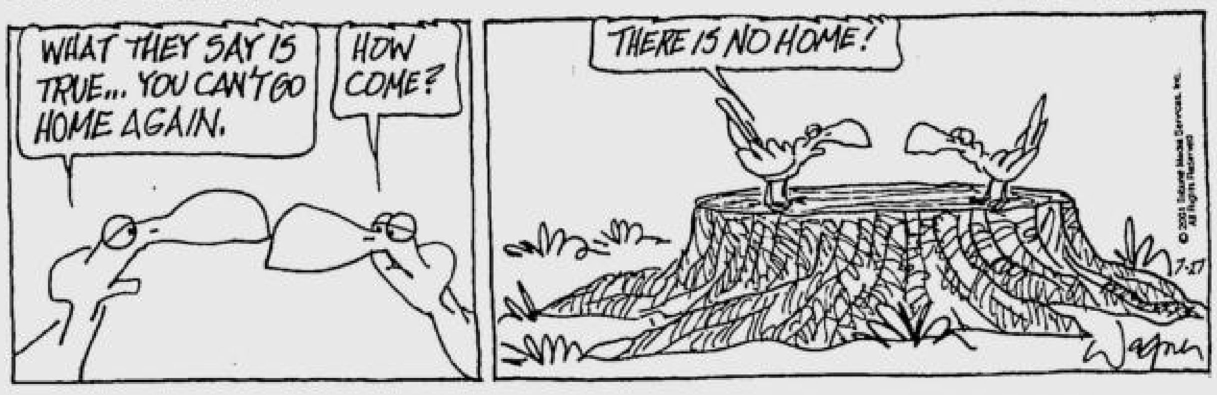
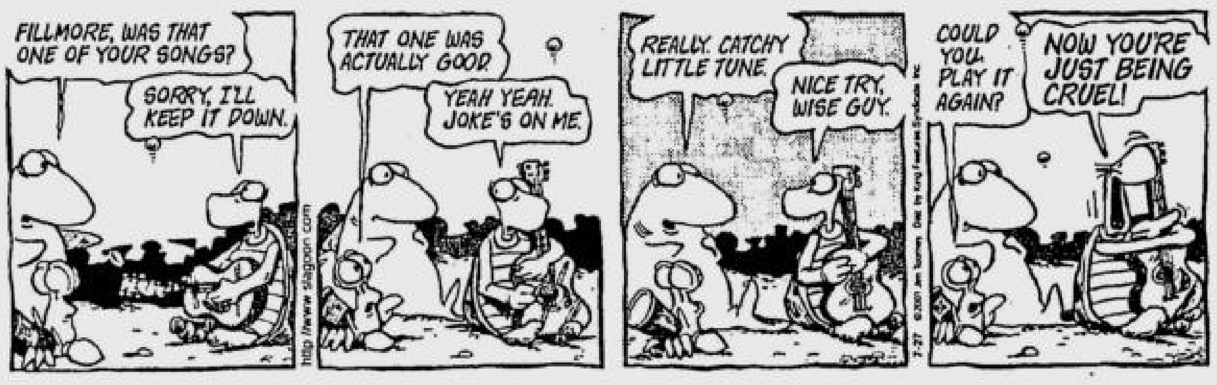
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM
BY MIKE PETERS


WHO WANTS TO BE ON THE POLICE FORCE TO BRING OUT THE BEST IN THEMSELVES?
POLICE
WHO'S HERE TO MAKE SURE THEIR COMMUNITY IS SAFE?
POLICE
...WHO'S IN IT FOR THE KRISPY KREMES?
POLICE
MIKE PETERS
8/13

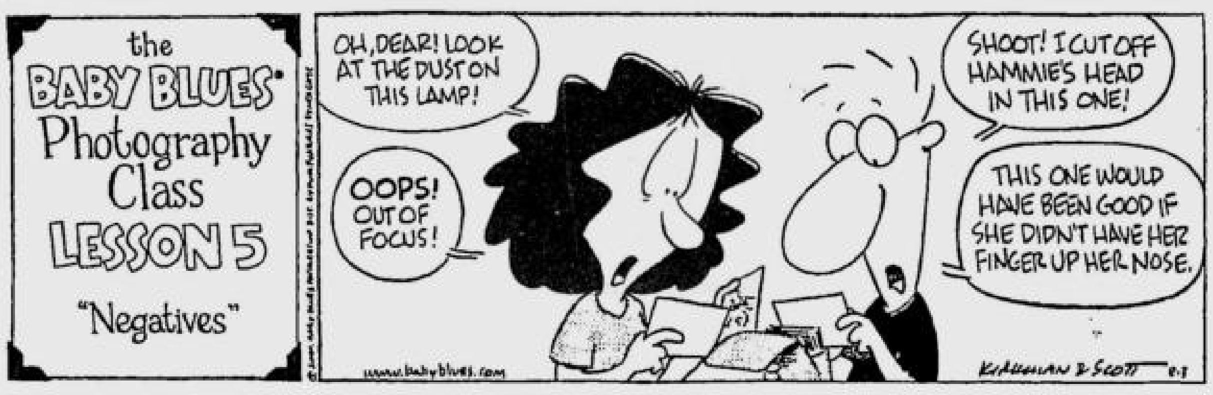
ANIMAL CRACKER
BY FRED WAGNER


WHAT THEY SAY IS TRUE... YOU CAN'T GO HOME AGAIN.
HOW COME?
THERE IS NO HOME!
7-27
Wagner

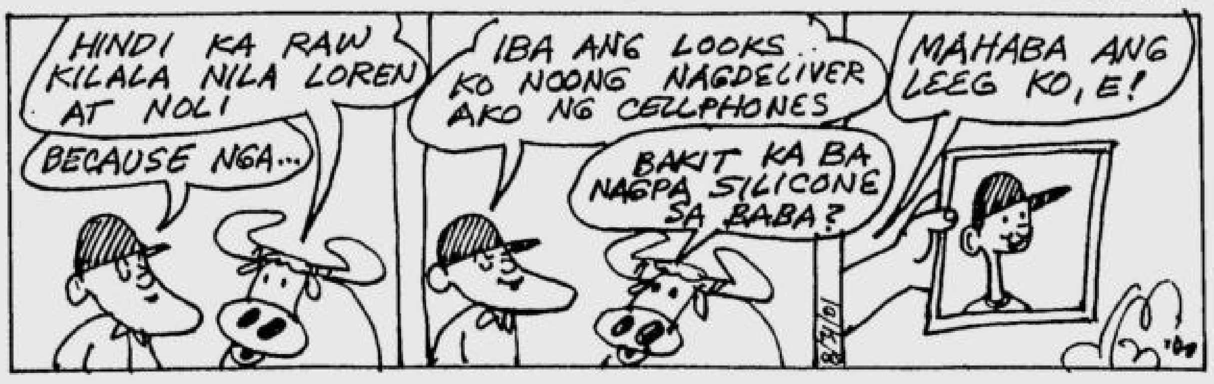
SHERMAN'S LAGOON
BY JIM TOOMEY


FILLMORE, WAS THAT ONE OF YOUR SONGS?
SORRY, I'LL KEEP IT DOWN.
THAT ONE WAS ACTUALLY GOOD.
YEAH YEAH. JOKE'S ON ME.
REALLY. CATCHY LITTLE TUNE.
NICE TRY, WISE GUY.
COULD YOU PLAY IT AGAIN?
NOW YOU'RE JUST BEING CRUEL!
http://www.slagoon.com

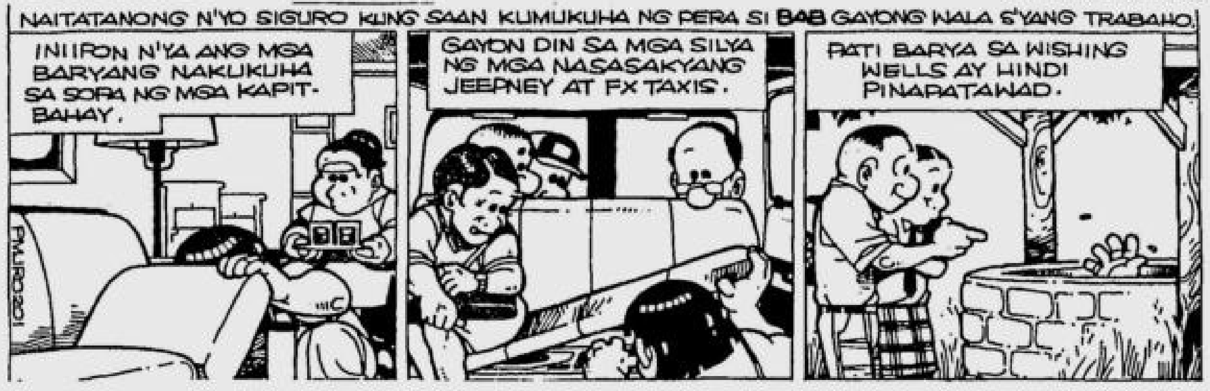
BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


the BABY BLUES Photography Class LESSON 5 "Negatives"
OH, DEAR! LOOK AT THE DUST ON THIS LAMP!
OOPS! OUT OF FOCUS!
SHOOT! I CUT OFF HAMMIE'S HEAD IN THIS ONE!
THIS ONE WOULD HAVE BEEN GOOD IF SHE DIDN'T HAVE HER FINGER UP HER NOSE.
www.babyblues.com
KIRKMAN & SCOTT 8-3

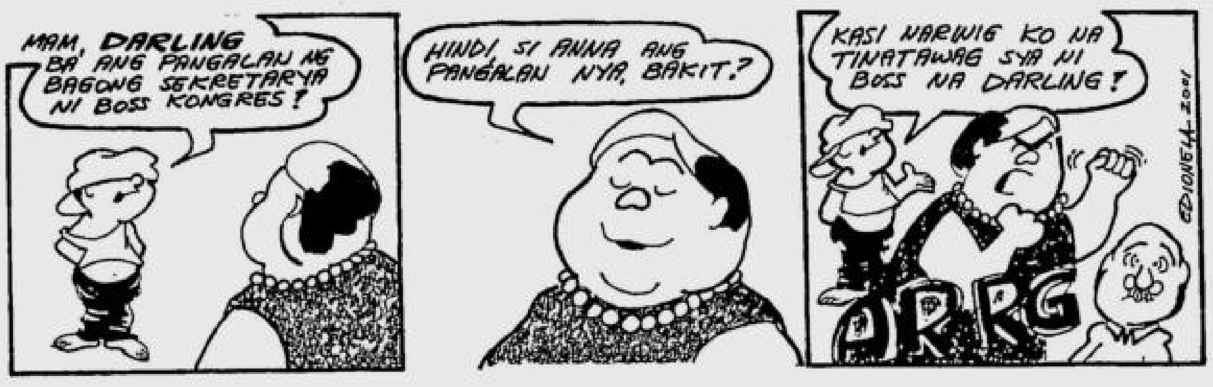
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


HINDI KA RAW KILALA NILA LOREN AT NOLI
BECAUSE NGA...
IBA ANG LOOKS KO NOONG NAGDELIVER AKO NG CELLPHONES
BAKIT KA BA NAGPA SILICONE SA BABA?
MAHABA ANG LEEG KO, E!
8/31/01

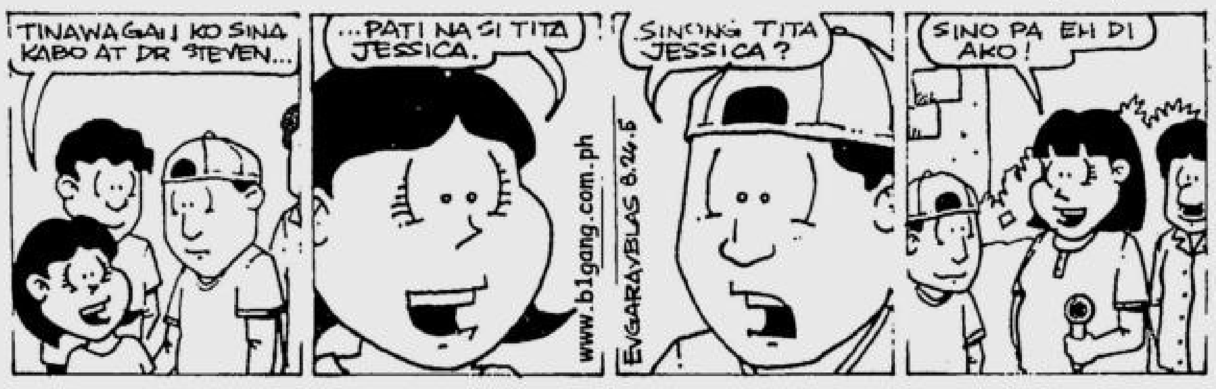
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAITATANONG N'YO SIGURO KUNG SAAN KUMUKUHA NG PERA SI BAB GAYONG WALA S'YANG TRABAHO.
INIIPON N'YA ANG MGA BARYANG NAKUKUHA SA SOFA NG MGA KAPIT-BAHAY.
GAYON DIN SA MGA SILYA NG MGA NASASAKYANG JEEPNEY AT FX TAXIS.
PATI BARYA SA WISHING WELLS AY HINDI PINAPATAWAD.
PMJR0201

SIMO
BY EDGAR DIONELA


MAM, DARLING BA ANG PANGALAN NG BAGONG SEKRETARYA NI BOSS KONGRES?
HINDI, SI ANNA ANG PANGALAN NYA, BAKIT.?
KASI NARINIG KO NA TINATAWAG SYA NI BOSS NA DARLING!
GRRRR
EDIONELA 2001

B1 GANG
BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG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...PATI NA SI TITA JESSICA.
SINONG TITA JESSICA?
SINO PA EH DI AKO!
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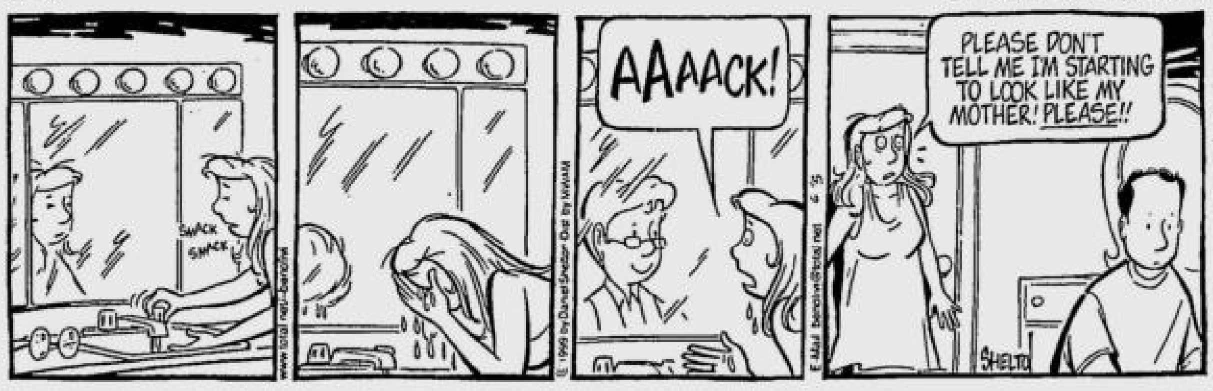
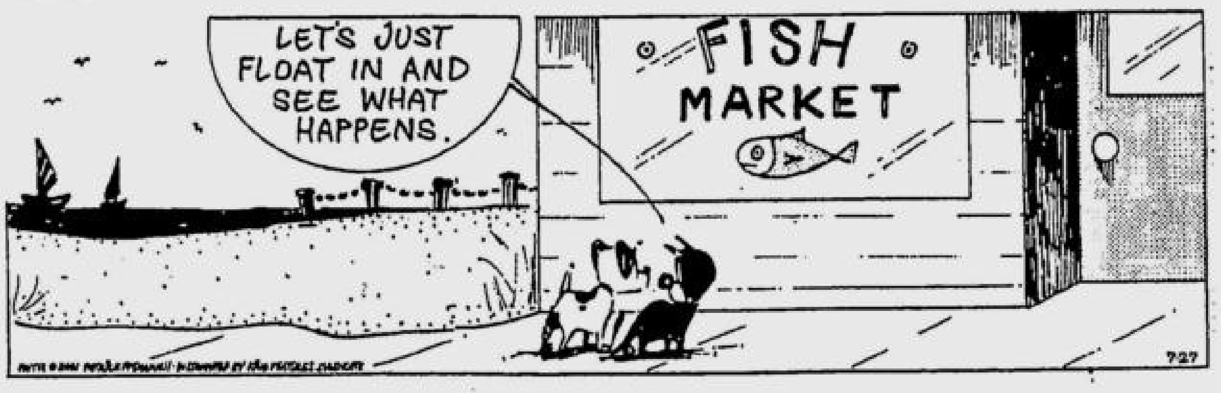
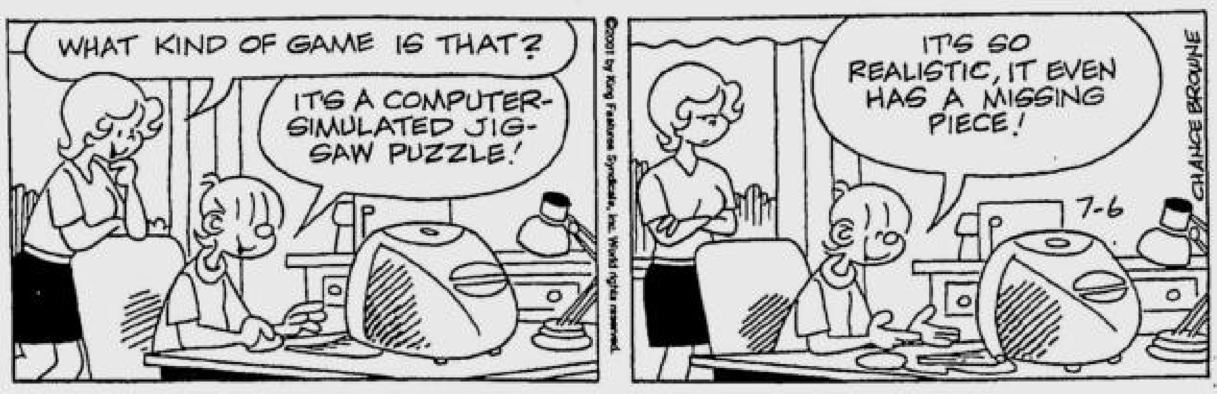
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


SMACK SMACK
AAAACK!
PLEASE DON'T TELL ME I'M STARTING TO LOOK LIKE MY MOTHER! PLEASE!!
SHELTON

MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


LET'S JUST FLOAT IN AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.
FISH MARKET
7-27

HI AND LOIS
BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WHAT KIND OF GAME IS THAT?
IT'S A COMPUTER-SIMULATED JIG-SAW PUZZLE!
IT'S SO REALISTIC, IT EVEN HAS A MISSING PIECE!
7-6
CHANCE BROWNE
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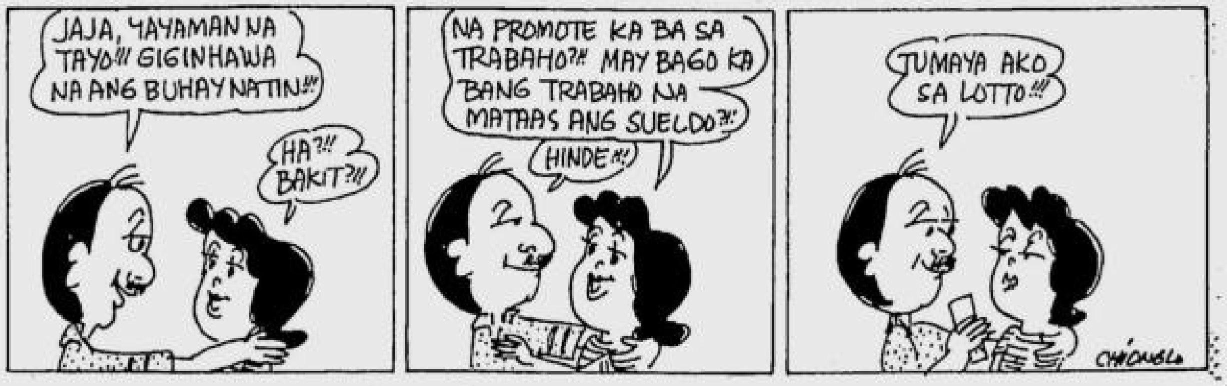
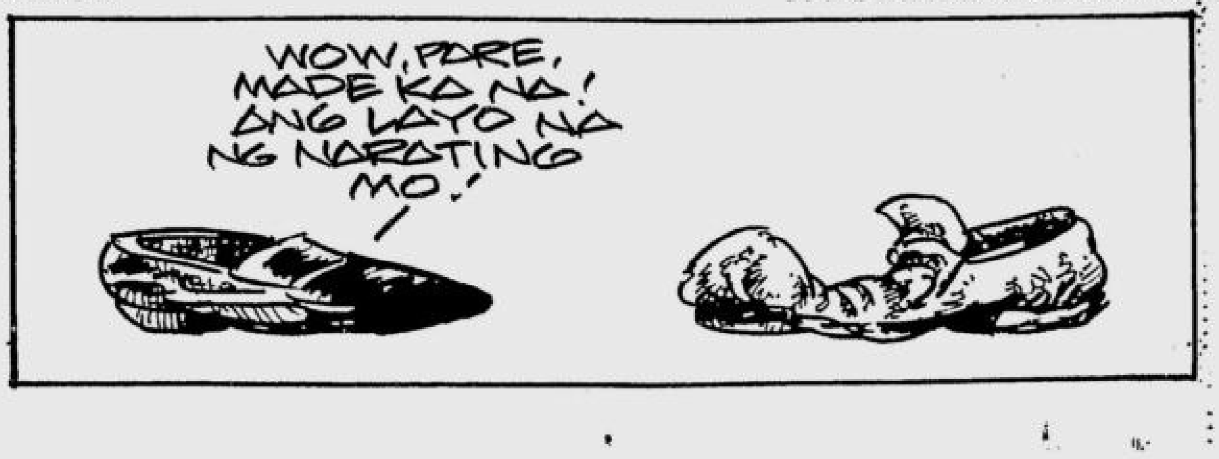
LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, YAYAMAN NA TAYO!!! GIGINHAWA NA ANG BUHAY NATIN!!!
HA?!! BAKIT?!!
NA PROMOTE KA BA SA TRABAHO?!! MAY BAGO KA BANG TRABAHO NA MATAAS ANG SUELDO?!!
HINDE!!
TUMAYA AKO SA LOTTO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


WOW, PARE, MADE KA NA! ANG LAYO NA NG NARATING MO!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Itzhak Perlman, Chris Tucker, Debbie Gibson, Richard Gere, James Coburn

Happy Birthday: You'll be given the green light this year, so prepare to take advantage of your good fortune. Your hard work and dedication will be recognized, and the support that's been lacking in the past will be present. Don't be shy; take the offered help and prepare to make your mark. You have what it takes to be great, so stop thinking about ideas and start initiating them. Your numbers: 9, 13, 28, 33, 41, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Involvement in organizational functions will lead to potential love connections and individuals who can help you achieve your dreams.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't count on having things drop into your lap. You will have to work hard to receive bonuses. Romance can be yours, but don't jump to conclusions regarding the possibilities.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Find new experiences that will spark enthusiasm. The time is right to learn new skills and make changes that will help you build a brighter future. The choice is yours.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You should be concerned about debts. Do whatever is necessary to consolidate. Reduce your overhead and ask family members for assistance if you can't get a loan from the bank.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Emotions will run high in your personal life. Put your energy into doing things with your mate, not a shouting match. You need to have patience and let things calm down.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your work will suffer if you let someone monopolize your time. Don't become involved in office gossip that will result in disputes and possible job loss. Contribute by focusing on your work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): This is not the time to deal with personal issues. Use time wisely by participating in challenging sports activities.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't count on sympathy from those you live with. Get involved in creative projects that will take your mind off your worries. You'll have trouble relating to non-creative people.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't discuss your personal life with friends or relatives. Your time will be better spent enjoying light conversations that are stimulating and entertaining.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Overspending will be your downfall. Remember that you can't buy the people you love. Gifts and exotic trips and cosmetic adjustments will cost more than anticipated.

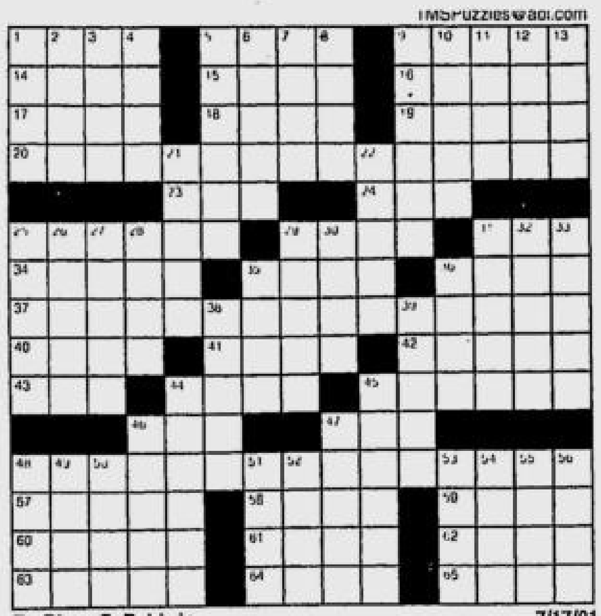
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You won't find it easy to deal with emotional matters and will overreact if your partner is preoccupied or inattentive. Don't confide in someone who may want to stir up trouble.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Health problems or minor injuries will cause limitations. Take time off to recuperate. A secret affair would undermine your reputation. Think before you get involved.

Birthday Baby: You are talented, bright and quick to respond to events around you. You aren't one to back down and will always stand up for yourself and your beliefs.

DAILY CROSSWORD

IMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD
7/17/01

ACROSS
1 Stir-fry equipment
5 Job benefit
9 Harrow parts
14 Butter substitute
15 Dash
16 Halt, legally speaking
17 Stead
18 Life of Riley
19 Biologist's concern
20 Imitate blindly
23 Formerly named
24 French lake
25 Scanty
29 Niche
31 Sign of affection
34 Bert's muppet pal
35 Sailor's shout
36 Logical
37 Act passively
40 Encounter
41 Mineral deposits
42 Boats' trails
43 Furthermore
44 Tramped
45 Coy
46 Family men
47 Knight's title
48 Are easily led
57 Saying
58 Army group
59 Pinnacle
60 Hippo's milieu
61 Green Gables girl
62 Something to bark?
63 Austere
64 Beatles hit song, "Back In the __"
65 Lobster traps

DOWN
1 Notorious skirt-chaser
2 Hodgepodge
3 Turn turtle
4 "Heart and __"
5 Comic Herman
6 Exhilarate
7 Imprudent
8 Patella's location
9 Vanquish
10 Writer Asimov
11 Upright framing piece
12 Dunce cap shape
13 Practice boxing
21 Beginning
22 Dad of Beau Bridges
25 Alabama city
26 Make oneself sleek
27 Fed the kitty
28 Disturb the peace
29 Tatter
30 Setback
31 Japanese verse
32 Submerged
33 Ninnies
35 Dynamic beginning?
36 Confidence game
38 Basketball game
39 Water pitchers
44 Drinking establishment
45 Middle manager?
46 Summoning device
47 Peals
48 Prohibits
49 Prepare to publish
50 Possess
51 Island festivity
52 Travel stops
53 Door hardware
54 Reverberate
55 Send off
56 Holding areas

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	U	R	F	■	A	L	E	C	S	■	I	T	E	M
I	G	O	R	■	R	U	M	O	R	■	N	O	R	A
A	L	B	E	R	T	R	B	R	O	C	C	O	L	I
M	I	S	D	O	■	K	E	N	■	O	I	L	E	D
■	■	■	D	U	O	■	R	E	B	U	T	■	■	■
A	E	R	I	E	S	T	■	A	R	S	E	N	A	L
G	L	E	E	■	M	O	O	■	E	I	D	O	L	A
A	G	A	■	R	O	Y	B	E	A	N	■	T	O	G
M	A	C	R	O	S	■	I	L	K	■	A	C	N	E
A	R	T	E	M	I	S	■	F	E	A	T	H	E	R
■	■	■	C	A	S	E	S	■	R	U	T	■	■	■
A	L	I	E	N	■	L	E	E	■	R	I	D	E	R
C	O	N	D	O	L	E	E	Z	Z	A	R	I	C	E
H	A	T	E	■	A	N	D	R	E	■	E	R	O	S
E	N	O	S	■	M	A	Y	A	N	■	D	E	N	T

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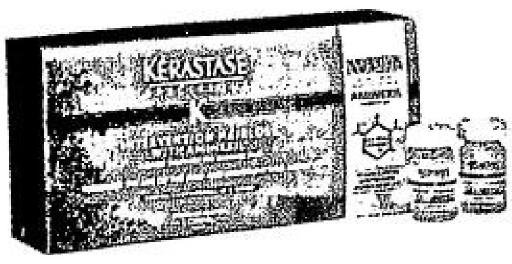
7/17/01

Hair-care products make salon visit a unique experience



KÉRASTASE offers a new experience in hair care from beauty salons.

With Kérastase, service is customized to individual needs. Each client is treated and considered a unique person needing unique services.

The Kérastase Nutritive line offers the Express Nourishing Ritual with Aqua-Oleum or the Intense Nourishing Ritual with Masquintense.

Weakened hair is strengthened by Kérastase Resistance Vita-Ciment, which immediately rebuilds its internal substance.

Kérastase Specifique Aminexil helps stimulate blood circulation of scalp for healthy growth of hair to prevent hair loss. For dandruff problems, Kérastase Specifique Purifying Treatment Rituals and Anti-Dandruff Treatment Gelee, a long-lasting detoxifying system, which gently and efficiently deep cleans the scalp to immediately eliminate dandruff.

All the products in the Nutritive range neutralize anionic sites, smooth and protect the hair. They consist of silicone-enriched active ingredients that bring lightness and smoothness. Each product has a different formula to respond to different types of hair.

Nature cure for healthy hair

NURTURE and promote healthy hair growth by using vital, energizing nutrients.

Jason Natural Cosmetics thin-to-thick natural hair and scalp therapy system may have what you need to keep your hair healthy and damage-free. The system consists of active botanical, marine extracts, vegetable proteins and vitamins to fortify hair. It includes thickening and volumizing products, which combat excess thinning and loss while encouraging growth of healthier, thicker and glossier hair.

Check out the "Jason Natural Cosmetics" hair products at Healthy Options at 1/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City; Rustan's Supermarket, Makati City; 2/L, Festival Supermall, Filinvest Alabang; G/L, Ayala Center, Cebu City; LG/L, SM City, North Edsa, QC; 2/L, SM City Manila; 2/L, SM Megamall B, Mandaluyong City; and Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Photo shows "Jason Natural Cosmetics" Thin-to-Thick Hair Thickening Conditioner which provides complete nutritional, environmental and UV protection; and "Thin-to-Thick Body Building Hair Spray" with long-lasting hold.

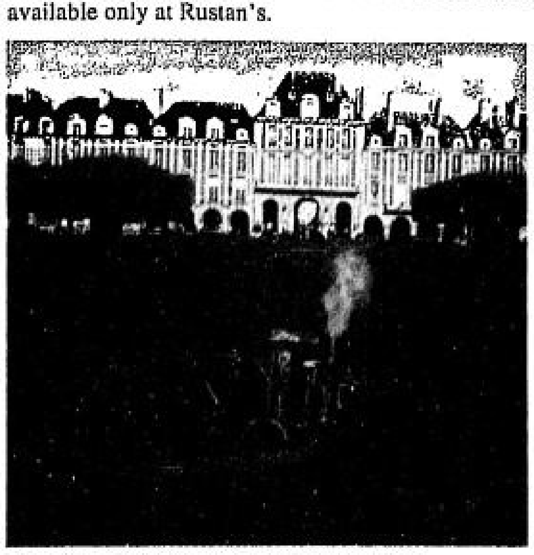
Pamper yourself with lavender

L'OCCITANE, a company based in Provençe, features the products of lavender grown in the French region.

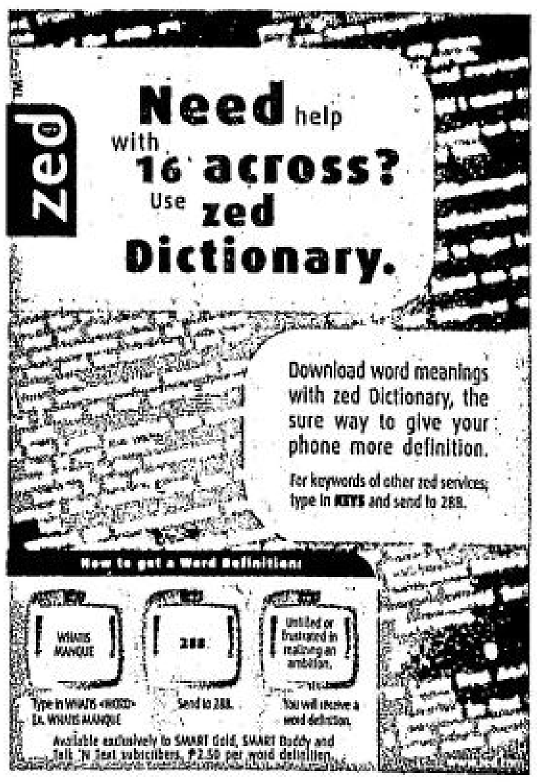
Provence is particularly known for Lavadula Augustifolia or fine lavender, which produces the best quality of essential oil for fragrances as well as bath and body products.

Dubbed Lavender Harvest, the products are made only of AOC-certified essential oils (essential oils certified by AOC or Appellation d'Origine Controlee have passed stringent quality tests). The products include the eau de toilette, limited-edition hand cream, body milk with mallow extract and grape, lavender facial mist, bath salts and foaming baths, shower gel, a limited-edition extra gentle shampoo, lavender soap, incense sticks, candles and seed pouches and the solid perfume.

Enjoy L'Occitane's Lavender Harvest collection available only at Rustan's.



PLACE des Vosges, France's top producer of fragrant oils



zed

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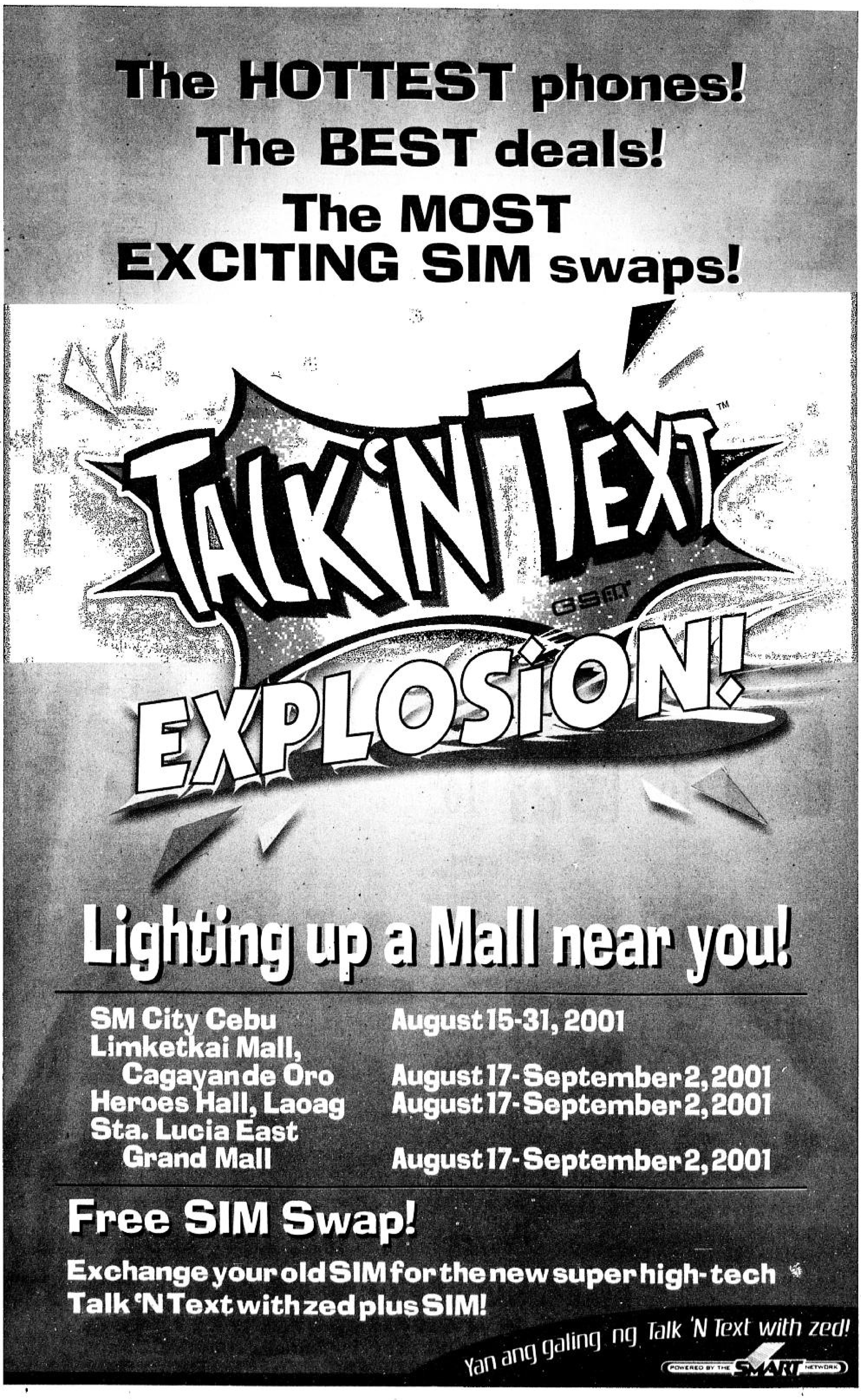

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Heroes Hall, Laoag — August 17 - September 2, 2001
Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall — August 17 - September 2, 2001

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September 9, 2001

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Reg. Price 185.00/kg.

MONTEREY
Ground Beef
TLC PRICE
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Reg. Price 128.00/kg.

CAMPO CARNE
Moby Hotdog
• Regular
1 kg.
TLC PRICE
P123^{00}
Reg. Price 129.50

SWIFT
Sweet 'n Juicy Hotdog
• Regular
1 kg.
TLC PRICE
P93^{00}
Reg. Price 98.75

PUREFOODS
Chicken Nuggets
• All Variants
230 g
TLC PRICE
P47^{00}/ea.
Reg. Price 49.75

KNORR
Liquid Seasoning
1 Liter
TLC PRICE
P107^{50}/ea.
Reg. Price 110.00

KNORR
Sinigang Broth
600 g.
TLC PRICE
P138^{75}/ea.
Reg. Price 144.95

LASAP
Premium Kare-Kare Mix
75 g
TLC PRICE
P10^{50}/ea.
Reg. Price 11.95

DOLE
Tomato Sauce
Pouch
200 g.
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Reg. Price 11.00

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Edible Oil
1 Liter
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Reg. Price 39.25

CENTURY
Tuna Flakes
• In Oil
• Hot & Spicy
155 g.
TLC PRICE
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ARGENTINA
Vienna Sausage
160 g
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Reg. Price 16.25

ARGENTINA
Meat Loaf
250 g.
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Reg. Price 15.50

PUREFOODS
Corned Beef
150 g.
TLC PRICE
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MAGNOLIA
Cheezee Filled Cheese
200 g
TLC PRICE
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Reg. Price 25.75

LADY'S CHOICE
Stripe Peanut Butter
• Guava
• Grape
250 g
TLC PRICE
P41^{75}/ea.
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100 g.
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1 kg.
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Reg. Price 478.25

SUSTAGEN
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• Chocolate
1 kg.
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P480^{00}
Reg. Price 494.75

H & Y
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• Lychee
• Assorted Fruit
300 g.
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Reg. Price 28.75

M&M's
Minis Snakpak Chocolate Candies
24's
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Reg. Price 54.50

BIG BOB'S
Candy Clouds Lick 'n Dip 2 Lollipop
10's
TLC PRICE
P36^{50}
Reg. Price 41.50

REGENT
Cheese Ball Snack
60 g.
TLC PRICE
P7^{50}/ea.
Reg. Price 8.25

HELLO!
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• Chocolate
• Vanilla
• Peanut Butter
15 g / 4's
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• Chocolate
• Milk
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P6^{50}/ea.
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88 g.
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LEMON SQUARE
• Ube Cake
• Mocca Cake
• Brownies
• Cheese Cupcake
6's
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P21^{00}/pk.
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ZEST-O
Choc-O Milk Drink
200 mL.
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SNAPPLE
Fruit Drink
• All Variants
355 mL.
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• All Variants
200 mL.
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Sanitary Napkins
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LIFESTYLE

Trend Spotting

Express yourself in the Big Apple

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

> *"Of late, it's impossible not to notice that style is in the air again, after a long dormant period. The young people I see around New York wear clothes wonderfully well, look sophisticated and are fiercely involved in their careers. It's a new kind of style, and a very welcome one."*
>
> *—Dominick Dunne*

THE MILLENNIAL birth of the "Bright Young Thing" as America's style benchmark came at the perfect time. The streets of the Big Apple are ripe with color and creativity. From cool uptowners to sassy downtown dolls, New York is the melting pot of international élan.

Uptown, it is hard to miss the chic shoppers flowing in and out of Barneys, loaded with shopping bags of the latest this season. One look, and you'll recognize the high rollers doing "power lunch" (how decadently '80s) at La Goulue. At night, check out the clubbers marching right into Le Etoile. When not spending a summer weekend at the Hamptons, they will be at Park Avenue Café for Sunday brunch.

Now, downtown spots are just too many to enumerate. Michael Musto's "the death of downtown" Village Voice phrase may have been echoed time and time again, making us deaf with the cliché, which dates back to the death of Andy Warhol in 1987. While it is true that SoHo has jumped on the "mall mentality" bandwagon, with European designers opening their doors by the minute and art galleries moving to the next,

EXPRESS/p.G2

The bright lights and cutting-edge bars attract the style-setters and the pretenders

STREET SMART. Muyi of Hotel Venus makes her own clothes.

NEW WAVE. Street boys wearing black

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Ms. Chat Silayan
Beauty Queen/Actress/T.V. Host

10am. Just made it in time for a longganisa and egg breakfast meal. Mmmm. Walked. Walked. Walked. Saw a really cute shirt. Bought it for P100 only. Saw a cute guy. Ignored him. Tried on a black dress. Tried on a pink dress. Tried on a floral dress. Bought a white shirt. 60% off! Walked. Looked. Walked. Looked. Walked in a shoe store. Walked out the shoe store. Walked in again. Bought new shoes, P95. Bought a bag to match, 50% off! Craved for a pearl shake. Met up with my friend for lunch. We bought matching see-through purple cases for our phones, only P100 each! Saw a celebrity walk by. Forgot her name. Congee or Inihaw for lunch? Ordered a burger instead. Dessert: chocolate ice cream. Met with our other friends. Neo print? Maybe later. Watched a movie. Love story. Yes, I cried. Had my pearl shake. Went back to the cool store. Bought more stuff. Lipstick, bracelet, necklace, underwear. All less than P200! Bought a set of Pokemon game cards for my nephew. Had ice cream: vanilla. Ice cream again? Bought a hairband, hairclips, and a hairbrush. Bought stockings, 2 pairs, P30 each. Could you believe that? Sat on a bench to rest. Ahhhh. Fresh air. Saw a couple walk by holding hands. Swing, swing. Aww, sweet. Watched a Gary V. concert. Free! Can't believe I danced in the mall! Oops, almost fell in the fountain. Couldn't wait to tell all my friends. Met up with my family. Had dinner. Burgers again. For dessert, what do you know? Ice cream! Walked. Walked. Walked. Saw nice jeans. Saw a cute mini skirt. Walked. Walked. Saw the cute guy again. Smiled. Kept on walking. My gosh, it's getting late. Anyways. Wow, that was a lot of fun. Saw so many cool things, enjoyed budget meals, saw Gary V (hope he saw me too), got to be with my friends, walked everywhere and got the best deals. What a day. What a really great day. Left the mall, **10pm.**

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10 TO 10 TOWN SALE Have more time to shop. Get great deals in over 100 of your favorite stores from10am to 10pm on Aug.31 to Sept.2

GARY V. LIVE! Go wild and dance to the music of Mr. Pure Energy, Gary Valenciano. Performing in a live and free concert on Sept. 2, 6pm at the Town Plaza.

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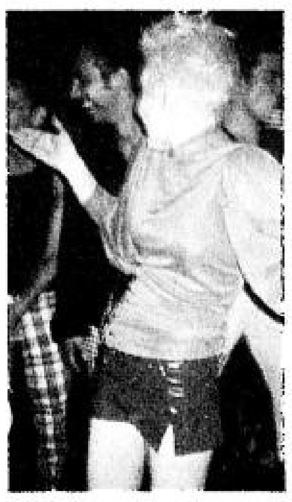
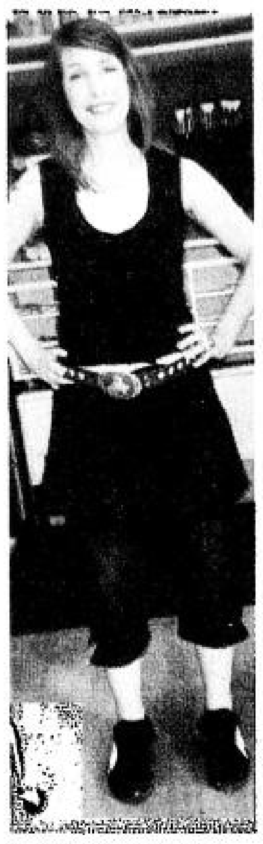
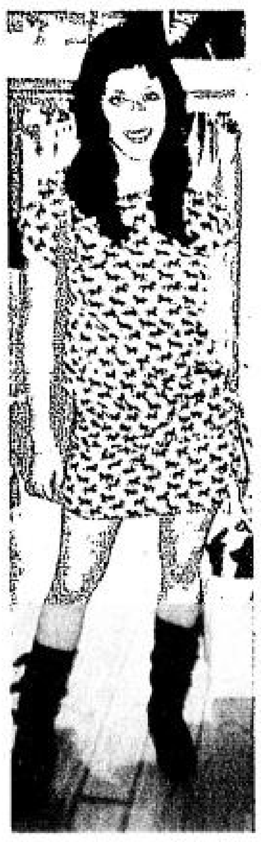
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0242, Series of 2001

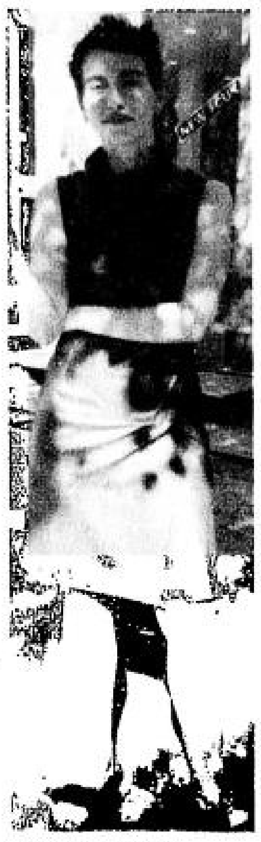
PUNK TRIO. Spotted at Downtown Dolls 2001 night at Spa

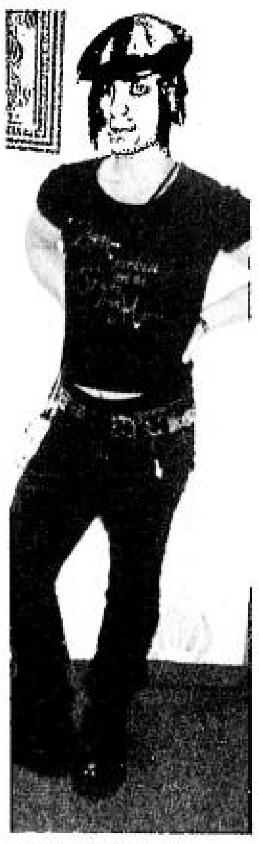
A MATTER OF SIZE. Denim dude with vintage golden girl

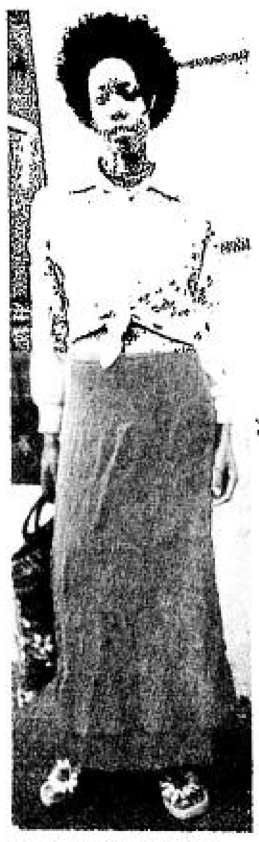

"I'M SPINNING around, move out of my way... as I wish you a Merry Christmas..."

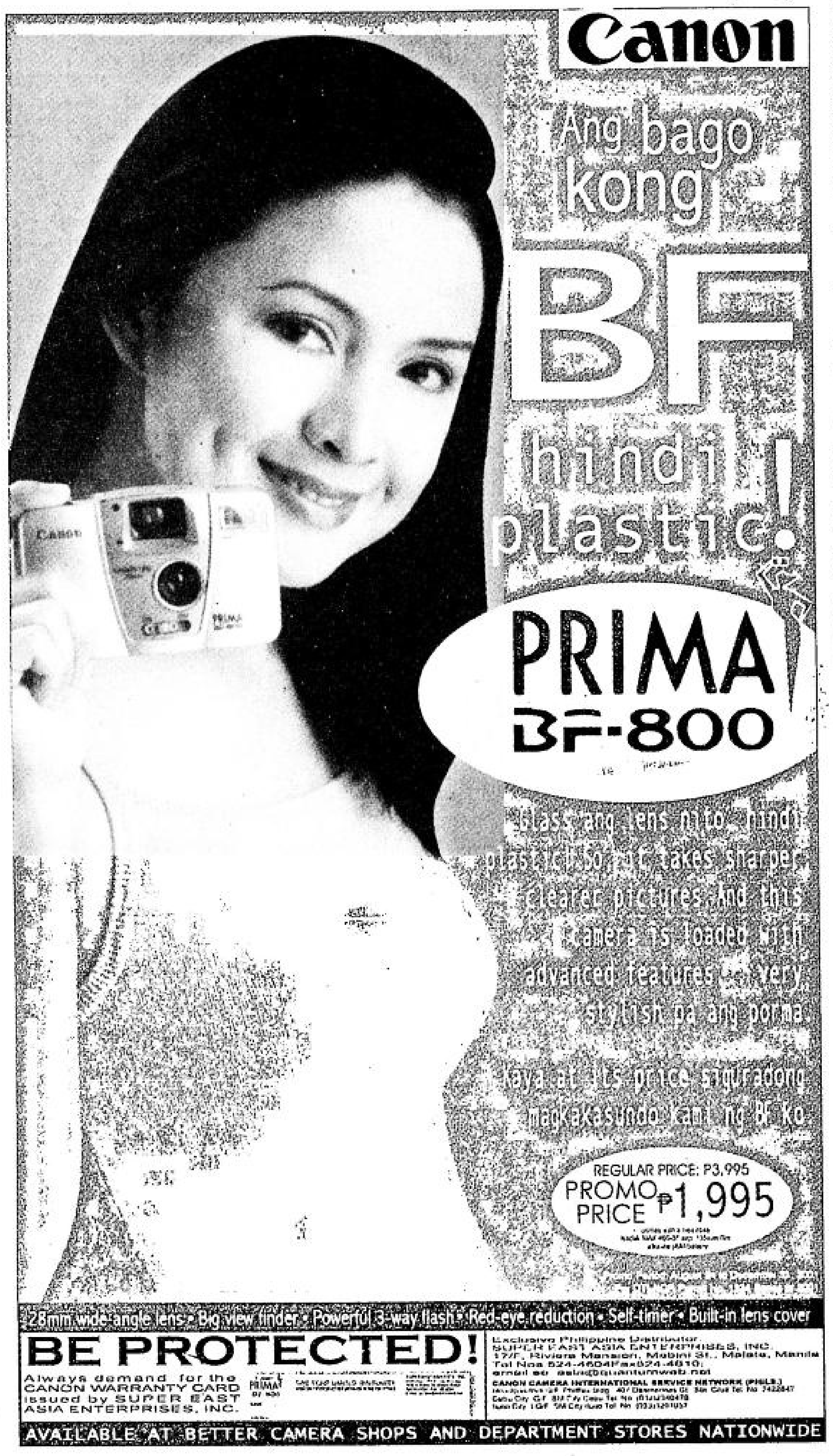

BLACK BUT NOT BORING. Layering is key.


ANIMAL PRINT. Chloe Sevigny look-alike in Chloe-like dress


GREEN WITH ENVY. New York street style


DOWNTOWN DUDE. The leather beret, now on the pages of Gucci's fall ads, here on DJ Mars of Hotel Venus


SUMMER HEAT. Feel like island hopping in this street smart combo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Glass ang lens nito—hindi plastic! So, it takes sharper, clearer pictures. And this camera is loaded with advanced features... very stylish pa ang porma.
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Express yourself in the Big Apple

(From page G1)

New York is still abundant with life, its streets bursting with energy.

Uptown or downtown, there are constants. The club scene is on a decline after the closure of Twilo, whose party pieces are now being sold on the eBay auction block. Centro Fly and Baktun have taken its slot.

The chill scene is experiencing a boom. Lounges like APT, Man Ray, Bungalow 8 and Suite 16 are hot picks this summer going on fall season. Inside these places, Vodka Ice is the chill pill. Cosmopolitans still abound, aside from sexy men and women, of course.

Big small city

Well-being centers, whether in downtown Lafayette or uptown Lexington, are the rage. New Yorkers go to the Jivamukti Yoga Center, whose forerunners are David Life, Sharon Gannon and Duncan Wong. (Their visit to Manila was hosted by the Yoga Foundation, led by Sandy and Antonio Arando.)

For tourists, aside from the regular sites and museum attractions, Broadway's power stars are a must. Aside from the Nathan Lane's and Matthew Broderick and "The Producers" of this world, crowd drawers include Brooke Shields doing "Cabaret" at Studio 54 and Eric McCormack (better known as Will in "Will and Grace") playing the title role in "The Music Man." When I was there for the Benetton Spring 2002 collection fashion shoot, I even got to see "Beverly Hills 90210" alumnus Luke Perry (not that it's such a big deal) do the "Rocky Horror Show."

"Big-small-city" is how a friend described New "Yawk" City. Whether you're uptown, midtown or downtown, being in this city is about being young, less about a place and a time, and more about an attitude of exploration. Why, every visit I make to my favorite city brings me 10 new spots to explore each time within like a three-month period. Club and street culture in this city is an ever-changing scene.

Even mature people never feel their age here. The most interesting conversations I've had were always with them. Whether in the subway or bus, during an intermission or after a show, I would manage a few minutes of chit-chat with them having the time of their life.

"I have too many things to do—watch shows, go to museums and walk along Central Park, shop and so much more. I never feel old." I recall one grandma telling me.

On a separate occasion, an old man was telling me stories from vintage Broadway. How he assisted this or that actress, how he saw this show a thousand times, etc. Our conversation shifted when grandpa asked if I would be interested in coming home with him. Friendliness can sometimes be dangerous.

AS FOUR. Yup, she is the one who designed the bag.

WAISTED. Swarovski-studded belt makes one shine waist up and down.

CORSAGE COUPLING. Outside Saks Fifth, two friends share the same fashion statement.

Style stalker

Most of the time, when not talking to pedophiles, my favorite pastime, aside from clubbing, is people-watching. I love playing style stalker in the streets of New York. From chichi stores to antique boutiques to flea markets and singles bars and dance clubs and lounges, nothing escapes my eye—much less my camera.

Click! Click! This page showcases my hip-hopping, style-searching street finds. Also find below my semi-annual list of must-check out NYC spots for the club, bistro and lounge conscious set.

1.Lotus—The gem of the meat-packing district for beautiful people, this 1-year-old establishment reigns boldly over the New York night life, with the tightest velvet rope door policy. "No beauty, no entry" seems to be their unspoken policy. Nice two-story "see and be seen" venue with a pumping basement for those hardcore night outs.

2. Man Ray—The newest challenger to Lotus' crown, this Parisian import has finally arrived in Gotham. Sean Penn, Johnny Depp, John Malkovich and Harvey Weinstein are co-owners. The interiors remind one of Buddha Bar, a lot of Asian touches, cool Euro-Asian cuisine. The real action though, happens at the basement VIP floor, accessed by a dramatic "L"-shaped diva staircase. Frogs legs, anyone?

3.The Hudson Bar—Ian Schrager's well-lit (even the floor is lit from underneath) center area for his hotel is a magnet for New York partyphiles who lounge around in ethnic couches and logs set up in an avant-garde way around the bar and DJs booth. Great martinis and excellent service, especially if you're special guests of the hotel.

GUESS who among the three is K.S.P.

4.APT—Outside, you won't see any sign of this lounge. It is not even listed in the directory. If he likes what he sees, a bouncer will suddenly spring out of nowhere and usher you into a beautifully decked apartment (APT, get it?) where you will chill with New York society types in this two-level area filled with relaxed attitude—attitude nevertheless.

5.TAO Asian Bistro—A giant buddha is the centerpiece of this converted theater now resto-bar-lounge on 58th Street. The crowd it attracts can be summarized in four words—rich, inebriated investment bankers, perfect bar to find a sugar daddy, according to Time Out New York. "Sex & the City" shot an entire episode in this venue.

6. The Park—Red bricks all over, fake trees and lots of oriental accents. Upstairs at the VIP room is THE place for model watching. Red lanterns, white chairs and other postmodernist accents give it that James Bond meets "Clockwork Orange" appeal. If it's the fashion industry for you, then, this is the place.

7. Suite 16—In a city like New York where beauty and money equals power, a bar where models and model worshippers hang out will definitely have a strict door policy. But, once you get in, everybody is packed like cigarettes in this small Gotham bar, which reminds me of El Circulo, if not Pep's.

The '80s punk style is very strong this year. Just take a look at the mohawks, the graffiti shirts, studs and retro street clothes.

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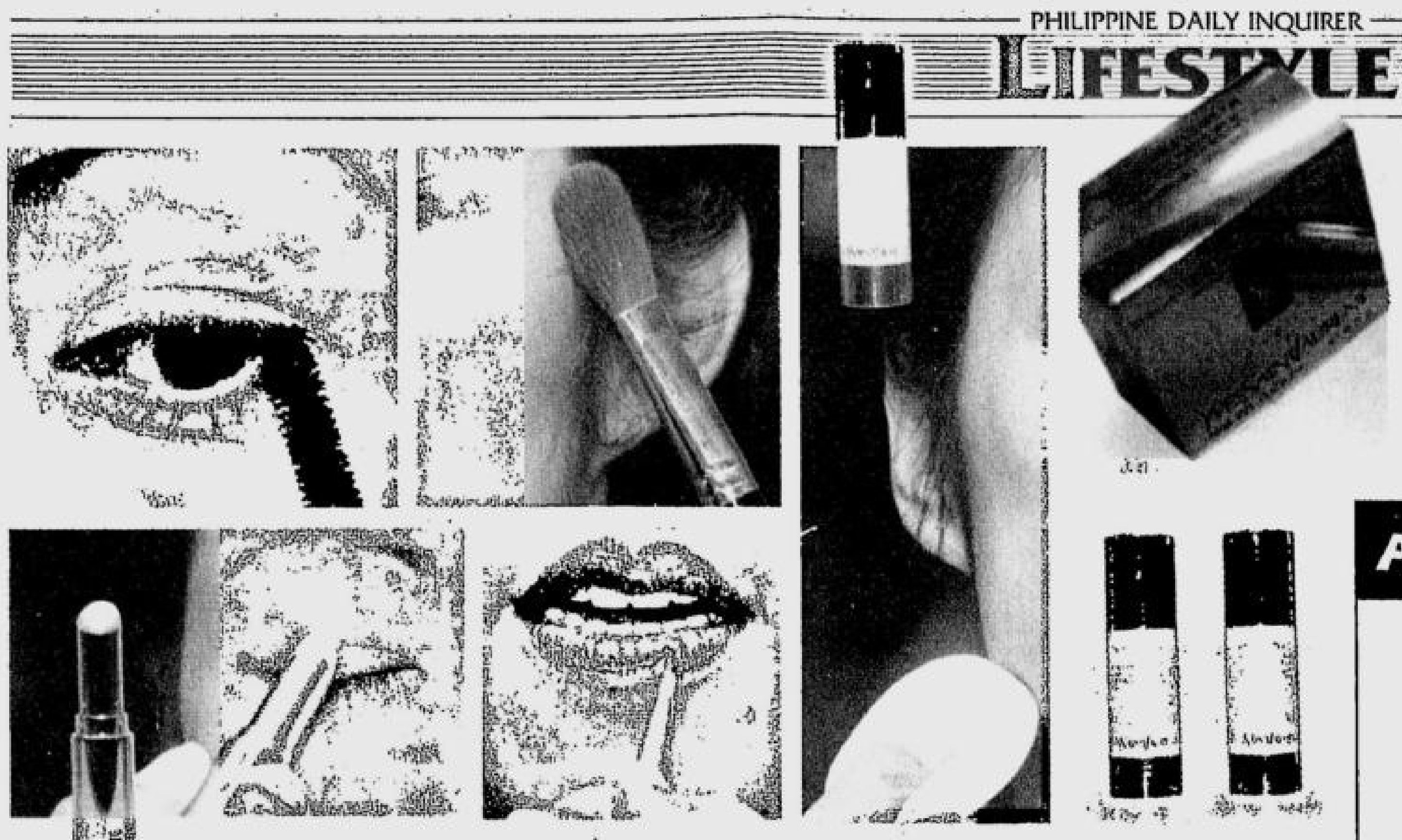
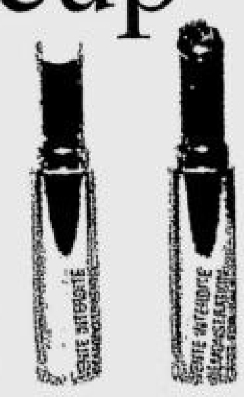


New generation makeup for the baby boomer



PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

YSL Beaute is touted as the best makeup in the world, according to fashionistas. Aside from the fact that the colors stay fresh all day long, the formula is also skin-friendly, especially to the mature client. There are no breakouts, neither emphasis of wrinkles. For 2001, this luxury brand introduces a new generation of formulation such as a remodeling foundation and water-gel eye shadow.

The Pearlized Powder Foundation is a modeling foundation that redefines the facial contours. The pearlized extract has a composition that approximates the skin's natural moisture. The light-reflecting pigments create a halo effect. These pigments also play on light and shadow. The reflectors highlight the rounded areas such as the forehead, cheekbones and the chin. The amber reflection shapes the face by enhancing the shadowy areas of the cheeks and side of the nose. The long radiance pigments act as a shield against sebum and perspiration.

While other eye shadows tend to highlight wrinkles and dry skin, the Eye Shadow stick contains 50 percent water. The sodium hyaluronate actually prevents dehydration and provides a cooling effect.

The waterproof mascara is not only foolproof, it is also easy to remove unlike other brands.

The cheek color contains mica flakes coated with amino acids so the color lasts for hours. The lipstick simulates the lip's natural defense system so that it lasts for hours.

All the cosmetics can be used just by dabbing the fingers.

Rustan's Tower at Shangri-La Plaza will hold free makeovers using YSL products this weekend.

JOJO Arjona of Emphasis Salon is one of the featured makeup artists in the YSL makeover demo at Rustan's Tower.

London gets another viewing of RP garments

THE PROFIL Program will return to London this September with more value-added services, seven "cluster" collections and buyer-friendly schemes to attract the European market.

As in the past, the 5th PROfil show in London is under the auspices of the Garments and Textile Export Board (GTEB).

The seven clusters represent ensembles for Ladies, Children, Teens, Men's and Ladies' Corporate, Lingerie and Nightwear, plus Fashion Accessories and Textile.

The PROfil V exhibit will be cohosted by Philippine Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James Cesar B. Bautista, who is hosting cocktails at the Embassy Residence on Sept. 6.

One-on-one meetings with buyers will be held Sept. 3-7.

PROfil V offers more flexible transaction schemes for the British buyers as well as the "one-stop-sourcing" proposal. Cluster members will be presenting collections anticipating the Fall/Winter 2002 and late Spring/Summer 2002 trends and the UK market expectations they would generate.

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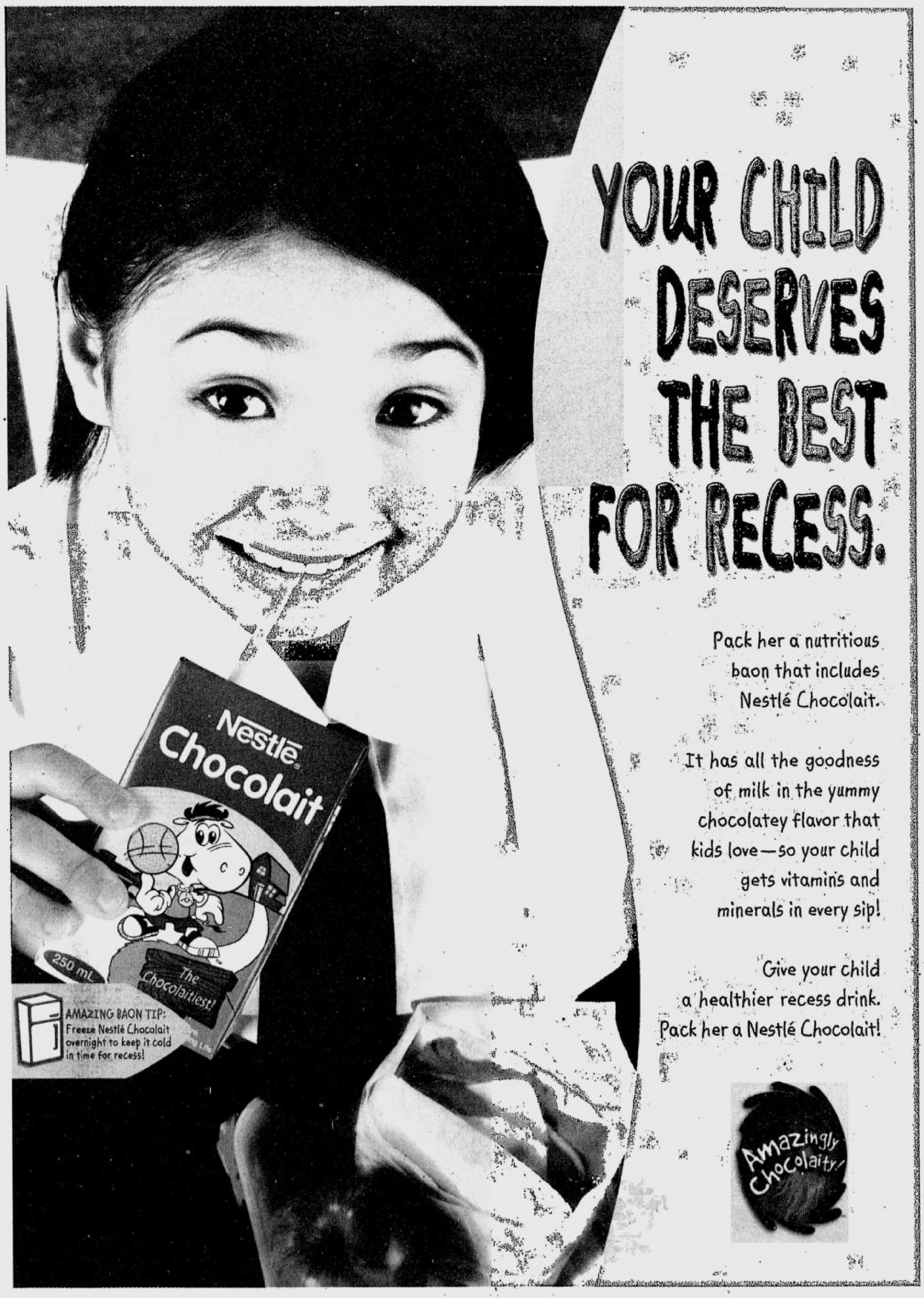
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VICTORIA London, SM Star Model 2000

Search is on for new stars

SM Supermalls has launched "Star Models: Model Quest 2001," an annual search that gives young men and women a chance to discover and develop their star quality in modeling and acting.

Grand prize winners with get P25,000 each. With a possible contract with Viva, the search could also prove to be the start of bigger things for the winners.

One of last year's winners, Victoria London, who won the Star Model title, has signed a 12-picture contract with Viva and completed one movie, "Tusong Twosome." She is also a mainstay of ABS-CBN's "Magandang Tanghali Bayan."

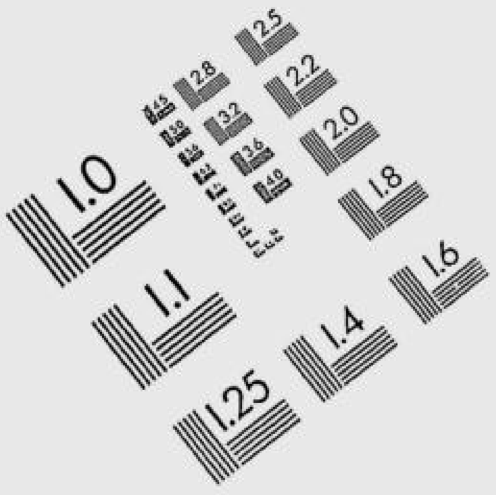
The other grand prize winner, Ed Feist, is now known to many as MYX's good-looking and cool resident VJ. Apart from being a VJ, the 21-year-old mass communications student is currently playing Brother Ladvenu in Actor's Actors "The Lark." He is recording an album of songs he wrote himself.

Runners-up in last year's competition have also had great things going for them. SM Star Model Viva Look of the Year winner Angela Silverio won the Bb. Pilipinas Miss Friendship Award while Alex Bernales, another Viva Look of the Year winner, has signed up with Viva as a member of a boy band that will debut soon.

The search is open to young men and women, 14-21 years old, at least 5'5" (female) or 5'7" (male) in height. Registration is now going on at the Marketing Department, Mall Administration Office of all SM Malls and at the Viva Artists Agency. Deadline for submission of entries is Sept. 28.

STAR Model 2000's grand prize winner Ed Feist

IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)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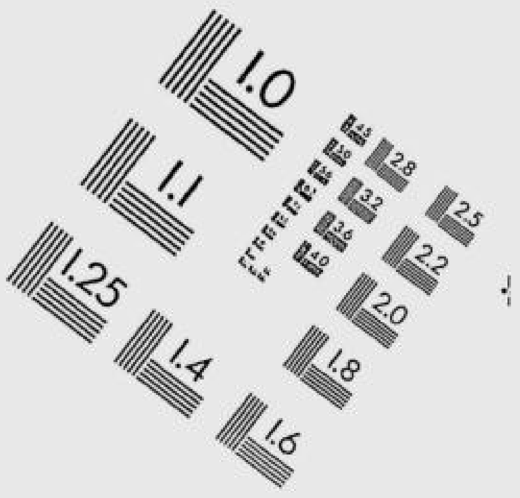
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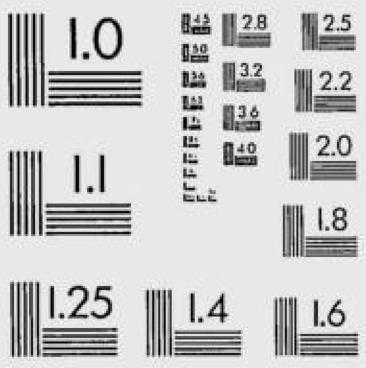
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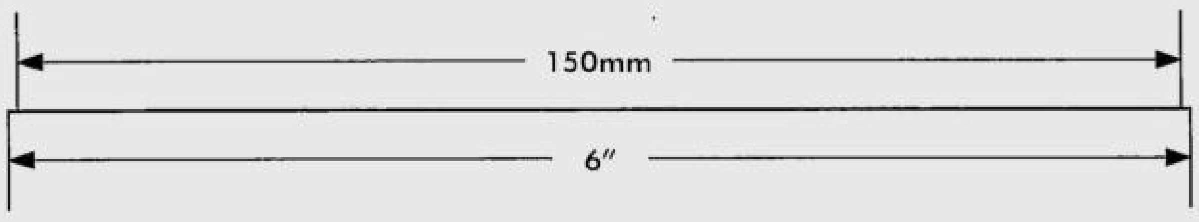

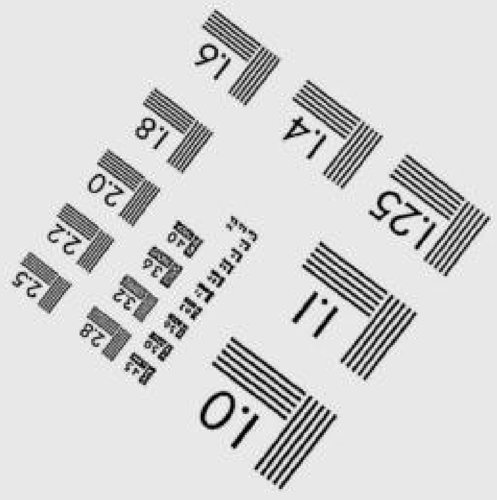
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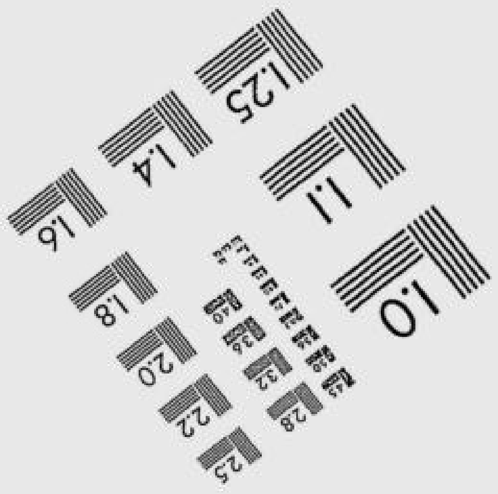
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